



1080 Montreal Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55116-2694

February 3, 2023

RE: MN House Bill HF1048 Youth Intervention Program

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of CommonBond Communities, a St. Paul-based nonprofit affordable housing and services provider, whose mission is to build stable homes, strong futures, and vibrant communities. CommonBond offers on-site, after-school Teen Programs for youth in grades 7-12 that support academic achievement, social-emotional skill-building, community engagement and leadership, and fostering future/post-secondary success.

CommonBond receives grant funds from Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Youth Intervention Program (YIP) to support our Teen Programs. These programs serve teens from low- to extremely-low income families, approximately 85% of whom are Black/African American or youth of color. Many are First- or Second-Generation Americans whose families came to the U.S. as immigrants or refugees. YIP supports CommonBond teens who may not otherwise have access to high-quality, out-of-school programs.

CommonBond firmly supports MN House Bill HF1048 and the proposal to increase YIP grant allocation from roughly \$7.5 million to \$29 million for the biennium. This investment in Minnesota's future leaders will ensure historically underserved youth receive support and opportunities to prepare them for future success. This increase in funding will ensure that we, along with other youth-serving organizations, can serve a greater number of youth and work towards safer and healthier communities for all Minnesotans.

Thank you for your time and consideration of Bill HF1048. Please feel free to reach me at the email below with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Adams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas Adams, Executive Vice President
Housing and Services
CommonBond Communities
Thomas.Adams@commonbond.org