girl scouts
river valleys

Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys Supports HF368
Submitted January 20, 2023

Members of the MN House Education Policy Committee,

Girl Scouts River Valleys is the local council of Girl Scouts of the USA, a registered 501(c)3 organization and the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. Girl Scouts aims to offer every girl a chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure, and success. Girl Scouts River Valleys serves over 29,000 members in southern Minnesota, western Wisconsin, and one county in Iowa.

Girl Scouts River Valleys is writing today in support of HF368 which would require Minnesota school boards to adopt written policies to address malicious and sadistic conduct. We are especially encouraged that this bill specifically names incidents related to race, gender, religion, sexual orientation and sexual harassment and exploitation. This Beyond Bullying bill will provide a pathway of resolution for students subjected to incidents that don't meet traditional bullying definitions but still cause extraordinary harm that can last a lifetime.

Dr. Andrea Bastiani Archibald, Girl Scouts' Chief Girl and Parent Expert has emphasized the importance of youth knowing that their school administration will do everything in their power to keep them safe, both emotionally and physically. By requiring schools to post these policies *and* discuss them openly, HF368 creates an environment of transparency and supports clear communication channels so students and their families have in-school support and know their options when dealing with peer-to-peer harm.

We ask that that you listen closely to the testimony of students and educators and support HF368. We would be happy to further discuss the details of our support for this issue; please feel free to reach out to me at any time at advocacy@girlscoutsrv.org.

Thank you for your service on this committee and your attention to this bill.

Sara Gangelhoff
Advocacy and Community Relations Manager
Girl Scouts River Valleys