

March 12, 2018

Dear Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives,

I am writing in support of HF 3361. I currently serve on the Minnesota Youth Council Committee representing Minnesota's Seventh Congressional District. I also serve as the student representative to the Morris Area School Board.

As all of us know, the opioid epidemic has reached extremely devastating levels. Individuals of all ages are falling victim to these dangerous drugs, including youth.

Youth from urban, suburban, and rural areas are not being properly educated on the dangers of these drugs. As a high school student, I have taken two (2) health classes. A wide array of topics were discussed, but opioid prevention did not receive the attention it desperately needs. Just like sex education, tobacco, and alcohol use, opioid and other drug prevention should be taught at great lengths, in an effective manner, in all schools.

HF 3361 allocates funds to the For Jake's Sake Foundation so that grants can be given to schools to educate students on drug use, thus providing highly researched education methods to teachers and students. The individuals from the foundation are highly educated on opioid prevention and personally know the effects it has on youth, families, and communities. Coming from rural Minnesota, I personally know what it feels like to lose a member of our community. No one should feel that pain, especially when it can be prevented. Prevention starts with education. It is vital that misuse education is taught at a young age, before it becomes too late.

No one has to lose their lives due to opioids and other drug misuses. Some things are not easily preventable, opioid and drug abuse can be. With the proper education of the effects of drugs, we can stop these evil killers and protect those in our communities.

I encourage you to support this bill in the committee process and on the floors of both the House and Senate, as well as urging for the Governor's signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacob D. Just', written in a cursive style.

Jacob D. Just

Seventh Congressional District Member, Minnesota Youth Council  
Student Representative, Morris Area ISD #2769 Board of Education  
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