



28 February 2019

Respected Members of the Education Policy Committee:

On behalf of the Youth and AIDS Projects, we are writing in support of HF1414 to develop a comprehensive sexual health curriculum for the State of Minnesota. This bill is important to our clients, our organization, and our state, as promoting comprehensive sexual education can bolster YAP's mission to eliminate new HIV and STI infections among youth, mitigate health disparities within our communities, and motivate more equitable access to reliable health information for Minnesota youth.

As an organization that centers on youth, this bill is particularly important to YAP. Through all aspects of our prevention services—from our health education programming to our community outreach—we seek to provide culturally and developmentally appropriate education around sexual health. HF1414 aligns with YAP's mission, goals, and values, especially as HIV disproportionately affects young people in our state: in 2017, 109 of the 284 new HIV infections in Minnesota were among people under the age of 30. The development of state-wide curricula around consent, bodily autonomy, healthy relationships—including relationships involving diverse sexual orientations and gender identities—and the relationship between substance use and sexual behavior/health will support YAP's ongoing efforts to promote a safer health landscape for our state's youth.

We look forward to working with you in developing comprehensive sexual health education and working toward health equity in our state.

Sincerely,

Dr. Meghan Rothenberger, Medical Director  
Val Rubin-RaShaad, Executive Director  
Wendi Johnson, Programs Director  
Andrew Schuster, Case Manager / Treatment Adherence Counselor  
Kevin Moore, Case Manager / Health Educator  
Cree Gordon, PrEP Outreach & HIV Testing Coordinator  
Spencer Czech, Case Manager  
Gage Urvina, Client Services Coordinator  
McKinley Green, Graduate Student Support Staff