

Dear Chair Davnie and Members of the House Education Finance Committee,

I am writing to you to express my support for increased funding for community afterschool learning programs as proposed in H.F. 786.

As an employee in our Girls & Youth Department at YWCA Minneapolis, I have seen first-hand the positive effects of youth having access to quality afterschool programming. Even with limited funding and resources, after school programs work hard to ensure that students are able to engage in activities that support their own cultivation of leadership, learning, and community connection.

H.F. 786 will not only support what is currently happening in our afterschool networks, but further increase youth access to enriching, culturally responsive programming.

Thank you for your time,

Mackenzie Engel

Contact Plus Coordinator, YWCA Minneapolis

Dear Chair Davnie and Members of the house Education Finance Committee,

As a lifelong youth work professional, I am writing in support of H.F. 786, which would provide statewide grants for out of school time youth programs.

A strong community-based approach to youth development will decrease the burdens place on schools to be the primary solution for youth enrichment, while creating more dynamic opportunities for families to engage. It is critical that we remember that youth programming benefits public safety in that it not only gives youth a place to go, but also builds a stronger sense of community.

I urge you to support H.F. 786 as investing funds into out of school time programs demonstrates a commitment to youth as leaders, learners and change makers.

Thank you,

Katie Rehani  
Girls and Youth Program Director, YWCA Minneapolis