





Workforce Development Board

402 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

 218-730-5241

 efoshay@duluthmn.gov

March 15, 2023

Chair Jay Xiong
557 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Xiong and Members of the House Workforce Committee:

On behalf of the Duluth Workforce Development Board, I am writing in support of HF2127, a bill that will add much needed funding to the Minnesota Youth Program (MYP). MYP is integral to serving young people in our area who face barriers to education and employment opportunities.

An increase in support for MYP would make a big impact on our work with youth in Duluth and the Northeast region. With additional resources we could:

- Deepen our partnership with Duluth Public Schools to reach more in-school youth with career pathways exploration workshops, field trips, and career fairs.
- Support more out-of-school youth to complete their high school diploma or GED, and move on to employment and/or education.
- Expand paid work experience for both in- and out-of-school youth, to build basic work readiness and leadership skills.
- Serve more youth with significant barriers to education and employment, in partnership with local community-based organizations like Life House, Neighborhood Youth Services, and Valley Youth Center.

We also support increasing the age of eligibility from 16-21 to 16-24. This mirrors other youth workforce development programs' age of eligibility and will allow greater flexibility for co-enrollment to leverage multiple funding streams.

We appreciate Representative Sencer-Mura's leadership on this bill and encourage the committee to support investment in youth programming via the Minnesota Youth Program.

Sincerely,

Ian R. Vincent, Chair
Duluth Workforce Development Board