



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

May 1, 2023

Senator Bobby Joe Champion  
Representative Jay Xiong

Senator Champion & Representative Xiong:

On behalf of our team at the YMCA of the North and all the young people we serve, we deeply support SF3035.

The Y is committed to youth employment supports. Our Career Pathways program is holistic, helping youth develop power soft skills, gain workforce readiness skills, and access on-the-job experiences and a professional network. We put youth on a path to careers that match their skills and interests, and address employers' needs for a workplace ready and diverse workforce. We provide 1:1 coaching through staff who help youth navigate challenges and solve problems as well as large group opportunities, and we offer paid internship experiences for older youth and stipended internship experiences for younger people.

Career Pathways provides a general introduction to the workforce and prepares youth with foundational employment and career readiness skills. This is critical as large populations enter retirement and extremely low unemployment rates. By helping young people access careers we also more deeply integrate them within community and advance their personal success, while supporting a flourishing economy for Minnesota.

We are grateful for the Legislature's support of workforce development experiences that provide young people with the opportunity to learn critical skills, hard and soft, for employment success; have positive first employment experiences; and explore careers that may interest them. We are committed to ensuring all youth in our state can thrive, and this bill advances Minnesota towards this goal.

Thank you for investing in Minnesota's future workforce.

Best regards,

Glen Gunderson  
President  
YMCA of the North

**YMCA OF THE NORTH**

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