



March 7, 2023

Dear Chair Pinto and Members of the Children's & Families Finance and Policy Committee,

Thank you for your tireless work for Minnesota's youth and for providing time to hear HF 1858. Thank you to our Chief Author, Rep. Keeler, for representing the voices of our youth and fighting for those most marginalized.

With great pride, I am submitting this letter of support for the Safe Harbor Act. As a 25-year veteran of serving youth experiencing homelessness and working with survivors and victims of trafficking, this is our year to do what is best.

The Safe Harbor Act tells our youth-**we believe you and are here for you**. Before this critical legislation, our youth's stories fell on deaf ears. Our youth were being charged with sex crimes when they were the victims of sex crimes.

And now, more than ever, we need to step up for our youth. Sex trafficking exists in all of our communities and across all of Minnesota, but it hurts our BIPOC and LGBTQ+ youth disproportionately.

Tell Mary, 17, who was sold to men by her mother in rural Minnesota at the age of 14, that she is safe.

Tell Diamond, 18, who was taken advantage of by older men exploiting her because of her transgender identity, that she is safe.

Tell Angela, 17, that her pimp will no longer control her and that she is safe.

Our time is now.

Let's make Minnesota safe for all of our youth. Pass HF 1858.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nicole Mills'.

Nicole Mills

Executive Director and Youth Service Network Policy Co-Chair