

March 15, 2023

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

RE: Support for HF2127

Dear Chair Xiong and Members of the House Workforce Committee:

On behalf of the Minneapolis Workforce Development Board, we are 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.

In Minneapolis, MYP supports the critical work of our Step Up summer program, giving access and opportunity to more young people in Minneapolis to experience important early career success, networking, and mentoring.

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,

*Deb Bahr-Helgen*

Deb Bahr-Helgen, Director  
City of Minneapolis Employment & Training

*Jonathan Weinhagen*

Jonathan Weinhagen, Chair  
Minneapolis Workforce Development Board