



Dear Legislators,

My name is Rob Lyons. I am the Director at Conway Park run by the Sanneh Foundation located in East St. Paul. Our organization is not only aware of the essential work being done by the Minnesota STEM Partnership (MNSTEM), our youth have directly benefited from it through participation and collaboration over the past 4 years. We stand in support of House Bill #1407 and MNSTEM's vision to significantly broaden participation in advancing and emerging technologies like coding and robotics in the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota.

MNSTEM shares our passion for introducing under-served communities and youth of color to 21st century learning skills and technologies that can change the trajectory of their lived experiences and put them on a path toward higher education, career options, and sustainability. Their stated goal of thousands of Minnesota BIPOC students being influenced and future labor skills developed can only be achieved with your vote and support for this exciting and impactful initiative. Their excellent work requires funding to continue the work of deepening skills and broadening impact across multiple Minnesota communities. Our collaboration with MNSTEM is measurable proof of what can be achieved when passion and purpose come together to turn dreams into reality.

We are grateful for the impact MNSTEM has already made in the community and we proudly stand with Dr. Wulf, his staff and the passionate volunteers who are willing to help our children live their best lives. Dr. Wulf's efforts, through the initiatives of MNSTEM, embody Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's mantra that "*Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.*" Your vote of support for this House Bill will open doors once closed to those who had the courage to act on faith and step toward a brighter tomorrow.

With a hopeful heart, I thank you for considering a vote in support of House Bill 1407.

Sincerely,

Rob Lyons
Conway Park Director
The Sanneh Foundation
612.202.8324 | rlyons@thesannehfoundation.org