

March 20, 2024

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Youthpraise, we write in support of HF 2666, the MN Basic Income Bill. Within Youthpraise, we prize opportunities for young people to powerfully launch into their careers and to build wealth. We know that for many young people with multiple barriers, this is a critical way to support people to take care of immediate needs, support the strategic moves for higher quality jobs, and improve the wealth and health of their immediate community.

Your committee was already supportive of the Homeless Youth Stipend Pilot, an innovative pilot for a target population to receive basic income as they find housing stability and launch. Young people already told us that this is what will be needed to get to a more secure adulthood. While we are in process of launching, with rigorous research, we are fielding asks from other counties that already want to align to move this forward. State resources will help to bring this critical tool to housing stability for young people to scale across the state.

Some facts about Basic Income:

- It is a monthly, cash payment given directly to individuals with the intent to disrupt poverty, advance racial and gender equity and support basic needs;
- It is unconditional, with no strings attached and no work requirements;
- It is meant to supplement, rather than replace, the existing social safety net;
- It is time limited;
- Communities are required to design their program with the people who would be accessing it; and
- Data tells us that basic income programs:
 - ✓ Alleviate barriers to full-time employment
 - ✓ Improves mental health outcomes
 - ✓ Improves infant and toddler developmental outcomes; and
 - ✓ Reduces the impact of unexpected economic shocks

This bill is an easy way to ensure Minnesotans have the income they need to increase their economic well-being which in turn increases their physical and mental health and housing stability, all of which are critical components of safe, thriving communities. We urge you to support HF 2666.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Kristy Snyder,
Policy & System Transformation Officer