



*An Initiative of Minnesota Alliance With Youth*

Dear Representative Lippert,

We greatly appreciate your attendance at the Minnesota Youth Council Legislative Hearing on February 24th, 2020 and for presenting H.F. 1414, regarding comprehensive sexual education, to the Minnesota Youth Council members. Thank you for your time and dedication to the youth of Minnesota and for hearing our feedback on this legislation.

We believe that HF 1414 will have a positive impact on Minnesota and there are several areas within the bill that we strongly support. For example, Line 2.1 mentions the inclusion of consent and states it must be “affirmative, conscious, and voluntary,” which we believe is an important distinction we know would help the youth in Minnesota. In many schools across our state, young people are unclear on the definition of consent, and when consent needs to be required; this confusion can easily lead to dangerous consequences. Due to this, we strongly support this inclusion of affirmative consent within H.F. 1414. Additionally, we greatly appreciate the implication of the sexual health curriculum mandating medical accuracy in line 1.15 — as we believe all students have a right to factual information about their bodies. As a Council, we also support lines 2.4 to 2.6, requiring notification to both youth and adult faculty to Minnesota’s age of consent laws. As youth, we’ve noticed a large degree of uncertainty among people of all ages regarding age of consent laws in our state, some of which have had disastrous outcomes. The Council thanks you for the inclusion of this in the bill, to help prevent more dangerous mistakes from being made.

The Minnesota Youth Council would like to see more specificity in some of the language of this bill. Line 1.20 of the bill mentions requiring the instruction on abstinence and “other methods” of protecting against STIs and unintended pregnancy. The Minnesota Youth Council believes the word “contraceptives” should be used on this line to make sure all students are aware of all the options that are available to them in regards to their sexuality. Also in regards to specificity, line 1.18 mentions instruction on “healthy relationships” — the Minnesota Youth Council wishes to ensure all students are fully educated on unhealthy relationships as well, to protect themselves against dating violence, coercion, and sexual exploitation in their relationships.

Thank you again for taking the time to present H.F. 1414 to the Minnesota Youth Council. We are thankful for your support with advocating for comprehensive sexual education in Minnesota schools. We look forward to hearing more on the progress of this bill, and hope to continue to support it along the way.

Sincerely,

The Minnesota Youth Council