



*An Initiative of Minnesota Alliance With Youth*

Dear Representative Kunesh-Podein, Ms. Murphy, Ms. Perez, and Ms. Honold:

Thank you so much for attending the Minnesota Youth Council Committee Legislative Hearing at Youth Day At The Capitol on February 27th, 2019 and representing HF 250, regarding affirmative consent education. We appreciate the time you put towards listening to youth and our feedback on the legislation. The MYCC voted in favor of this bill.

We would also like to thank the brave testifiers who came to Youth Day at the Capitol to voice their support for this bill. Hearing your stories was a powerful experience for all of us. Having the testifiers at the hearing provides a strong precedent and support for youth across Minnesota to start talking about sexual consent, a topic that has long been undermined in our culture.

We appreciate your attention to this issue of preventing sexual assault, which the MYCC believes to be incredibly important. This bill is an important step to take in the enhancing our current sexual education system, which many of our members believe needs reform and further attention. Many members believe that schools have been a pillar of information and education and it is time that there are set curriculums and foundations to teach affirmative consent. We furthermore laud the bill for extending this curriculum to charter schools as it is evident that in our education systems there have been disparities in the standards of education for public schools compared to charter schools. As a whole, the MYCC is wholeheartedly committed to providing adequate access to education and support for all students in Minnesota.

The MYCC believes a mandated curriculum is important to teach in class but we, as a whole, agree that exposure to this type of education should be taught to middle school and to elementary students. We also believe that in order to change the negative stigma and ignorance on the subject, students should be exposed to these subjects at a young age. The MYCC isn't in support of a formal, adult-curriculum for children, but an introduction curriculum, that is age appropriate, for younger students. Sexual harassment, assault and exploitation are issues that many young students are exposed to, and they should have the proper support, access and information that help them navigate these issues in their lives.

Thank you for taking the time to present this bill to the Minnesota Youth Council Committee. We appreciate your support in educating all students on affirmative consent education, and we look forward to hearing more on this bill and continuing to support it.

Sincerely,  
Minnesota Youth Council