



*An Initiative of Minnesota Alliance With Youth*

Dear Representative Youakim,

Thank you for attending the Minnesota Youth Council Committee hearing on March 26, 2021 and presenting HF 375, seeking to allow minors aged 16 and up to consent to outpatient mental health services. We appreciate your time put toward listening to youth voices and the feedback we have for this legislation. The MYC passed this bill unanimously and the Council hopes to continue advocating for HF 375 in the House and Senate.

The council appreciates the receptivity that was demonstrated throughout the hearing to the ideas brought forth. Youth Representatives feel the bill is poignant and straightforward, and is only necessary given the existing policies regarding inpatient mental health services. Going forward, we believe the passing of the bill into law can create a valuable precedent for the bodily autonomy of youth in Minnesota. Youth Representatives also hope to see the expansion of language in the bill in order to further strengthen that precedent.

Additionally, in order to ensure the bill's inclusivity and effectiveness, there remain elements of the bill language in which we seek clarification. There are many barriers to receiving mental health services for young people, not only the age of consent to health services, but the financial conditions as well. We would hope that in future revisions of this bill, the financial impact that is to be placed upon the minor receiving services be clearly outlined. Regardless of income, insurance, or lack thereof, we wish to not only see the ability to consent to these services granted but also the ability to realistically and continually access them.

Thank you again for taking the time to present HF375 to the Minnesota Youth Council Committee. The council appreciates your continued support of youth and youth health. We look forward to continued collaboration, if you need anything let us know.

Sincerely,

The Minnesota Youth Council Committee