



*An Initiative of Minnesota Alliance With Youth*

Dear Mrs. Redepenning,

Thank you for attending the Minnesota Youth Council Committee Hearing on April 20th, 2018 and presenting HF 1027 on Promise Fellow funding. We greatly appreciate your time and efforts put towards listening to our feedback on this legislation. The Minnesota Youth Council Committee unanimously approved this bill, with 16 votes in the affirmative.

The MYC is in strong support of this bill, and its intent. We do, however, have many questions regarding the funding of this bill. There's uncertainty of what the monetary amount is specifically designated for, and why that amount was selected. Funding for all programs is of huge concern for the Minnesota Youth Council, as we hope that we have the ability to support our people in a stable manner. We know bills themselves can be very weak if they lack the proper funding, as the state legislature is working very hard to ensure that no legislation goes passed without the ability to be efficiently funded.

Some questions regarding the staffing have also arise, namely regarding how many staff will be available. Expansion on how one can qualify for this program is also wanted amongst MYC members. Student involvement is a concept that we hope the legislature will elaborate more extensively. Many of us are still confused on how the MDE will involve the youth itself with this program. A broader emphasis of the ultimate impact of this bill in youth engagement would clear up many of our concerns.

We very much appreciate this bill, and how it will expand important resources to students. AmeriCorps and their work to expand resources for students is highly valued by us. We're very grateful for all work that is done to ensure better education for our youth. The stories given at the hearing were very moving to all of us; the program has supported many students in very personal ways. Students with minimal access to critical resources will now be able to expand their education, and gain a better footing in their education. Minnesota has always supported education in many ways, and this bill would be a great step forward in that respect. We hope this bill passes, and we greatly thank the authors for making this possible!

Sincerely,

The Minnesota Youth Council Committee