



*An Initiative of Minnesota Alliance With Youth*

Dear Representative Relph,

Thank you for presenting SF 1386, regarding a child's right to counsel during the Minnesota Youth Council Committee hearing held on March 27, 2018. The council greatly appreciates your time and willingness to insure better legal representation among youth and for presenting this bill to the committee. The bill passed with overwhelming and unanimous support, with twenty-three votes in the affirmative and zero votes in the negative.

There are many positive aspects of this bill that allowed the committee to vote in favor. Being youth representatives, we supported the fact that the bill insured youth were aware of their legal rights. Additionally, the MYC was pleased that the bill would not let a parent/guardian waive the right to counsel on behalf of the child. The committee believes this gives youth a voice and will prevent the exploitation of children.

We also appreciate that this legislation is honest, sound, and loophole-free, again eliminating the possibility of child exploitation.

Once again, thank you for presenting SF 1386. We look forward to seeing the bill prosper and continue to promote and insure the legal rights of children.

Sincerely,

The Minnesota Youth Council Committee