



Engagement. Voice. Success.

Dear Senator Anderson and Ms. Walstein,

Thank you for presenting SF 474, regarding a workforce training program for high school students, during the Minnesota Youth Council Committee meeting on March 21st, 2017. Your bill was voted on and passed with 17 votes in the affirmative and 0 votes in the negative.

As students soon to be entering the workforce, it is encouraging to see that there is interest in introducing programs that support student development. This program would safely help student transition into the workforce with essential skills. It gives youth an understanding of careers that might interest them, and allows them to further explore educational opportunities beyond the classroom which is important in the current job market.

The Committee has a few recommendations for this bill. While GPA is never mentioned in the bill, we want to ensure that the application for this program not to be based on GPA, but on a student's willingness to learn and incorporate themselves into their community. The Minnesota Youth Council's application does not include certain qualifiers that could be deemed restrictive, including GPA, as it is not the best indicator of student success and engagement. Members of the MYCC would also like to see the minimum age for the program be lowered to 16. We would also appreciate some clarity why only five grants for this program are allowed to be distributed across the state. We worry a grant may not be accessible to student outside of the five grant recipients.

We cannot wait to see how it develops from here and we are honored to have taken part. Thank you for this opportunity and we hope to work with you again.

Sincerely,

The Minnesota Youth Council Committee



An Initiative of Minnesota Alliance With Youth