



Engagement. Voice. Success.

Dear Senator Abeler, Mr. Spellman and Mr. Handy,

Thank you for attending the Minnesota Youth Council Committee meeting on April 21st, 2017 and presenting SF 1722 regarding a pilot grant program for the Somali community in Minnesota. Mr. Spellman and Mr. Handy, the Committee admire your ability to talk so intelligently about such a complex subject with such short notice. This bill passed with 20 votes in the affirmative and 3 votes in the negative. We truly appreciate your willingness to present to the MYCC and hear our opinions and questions on this piece of legislation.

There were many components of this bill that the MYCC found admirable. First, the Committee thought that this bill would have a profound impact in Minnesota, considering the large Somali community present. We are proud to have such a sizable Somali population in our state. The large community also shows why there is a need for such grants to help promote the development of the Somali community. Additionally, the MYCC values equity in all forms, so we appreciate the geographic equity present in the bill, as this allows for Somali communities statewide to receive grants through the bill process. This bill could be positively used to improve the socio-economic status of members of the Somali community.

Dissenting MYCC members raised a few concerns over the bill, and found a few places in which revision may be taken into consideration. First, there was concern over the cost of the bill. Further explanation on why \$18 million is necessary for this grant would make this bill more impactful, as there was some confusion during the hearing. Overall, the committee believed that less emphasis on financial worry and more input on investing and promoting in the companies would be very beneficial for this bill. The MYCC was also wondering if members of this community – of all ages, socioeconomic statuses, etc. - were consulted on what they think of this grant, as we believe it is crucial to ensure that this bill would positively help those most impacted.

Thank you again for presenting to the Minnesota Youth Council Committee. We enjoyed your willingness to involve youth voice in legislative processes. Please keep us updated on the progress of this bill in the legislative session.

Sincerely,

Minnesota Youth Council Committee



An Initiative of Minnesota Alliance With Youth