



Engagement. Voice. Success.

Dear Senator Nelson,

Thank you for attending the Minnesota Youth Council Committee meeting and presenting on SF 570, regarding Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act Provisions Modified and Graduation Incentives Program Amended on Friday, April 21st, 2017. We greatly appreciate your time and efforts listening to the needs of youth and representing them in this legislation. The Minnesota Youth Council Committee unanimously approved this bill with 25 votes in favor.

There were many positive aspects of your bill. This includes elimination of the gag rule, which we found to be a major factor as to why students have not been taking advantage of PSEO programs near them. We also approve of the fact that this bill supports educational equity through providing students with technology, information, and a safe learning environment to complete their schoolwork. These factors of the bill will greatly improve the quality of the PSEO program for students all across the state.

Although this bill is extremely beneficial to youth striving for advanced courses while still in high school, we recommend some changes that would increase these benefits. First, the elimination of the weighted GPA and students being able to contest with the commissioner brought great concern to our youth. We believe the rigor and advancement of these courses deserves a weighted GPA for students. We are also concerned how the school's requirements will be monitored. Legislation already states that schools should be informing students adequately and encouraging these options, however, we know by experience that many schools are not complying. How will we ensure this cycle will no longer continue? The Committee wants to see this legislation succeed in order to encourage our youth to continue these educational options but we are apprehensive about how schools will comply.

Thank you for taking the time to present this bill to the Minnesota Youth Council Committee. We appreciate your support regarding Post Secondary Enrollment Options. We look forward to hearing more about this bill and continuing to support it.

Sincerely,

Minnesota Youth Council Committee



An Initiative of Minnesota Alliance With Youth