

January 24, 2023

Rep. Sandra Feist
Minnesota House of Representatives
409 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Feist,

On behalf of the National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC), I am pleased to offer this letter in support of the new legislation introduced to create a Minnesota Youth Advisory Council. The Minnesota Youth Advisory Council bill is carried in the Senate Government Omnibus Bill is SF 1426. As a strong supporter of youth voice and leadership, we believe that by shifting to a model that mirrors the ethnic councils, we can ensure youth voice is central to the decision-making process within the state.

As you know, many marginalized and underrepresented groups have an institutionalized presence in our government; young people do not. This bill establishes the Minnesota Youth Advisory Council as the first of its kind in the country. It would cement youth voice and leadership within the government, as opposed to being funded and hosted in a non-profit organization. It also creates the opportunity to expand access for students to testify, shape policy, and work with our decision-makers while expanding access and increasing transparency and accountability with those we elect. Finally, it provides opportunities to hold well-resourced public forums with students, engage them in awareness and outreach campaigns, while building their knowledge and understanding of our democracy.

For 40 years, NYLC has engaged youth, educators, and community leaders to redefine the roles of young people in society and to empower youth as valuable resources in solving the critical issues that affect them. We recognize youth as partners in decision-making and understand that when given the opportunity to lead, youth understand their rights and obligation to act in the benefit of the public good.

NYLC lends its full support to the creation of The Minnesota Youth Advisory Council and the impact that youth voice and leadership will bring to the state of Minnesota. I can be reached directly at 651-503-7714 or ameuers@nylc.org.

In gratitude and service,



Amy Meuers
NYLC CEO