

Good morning Chair Youakim, members of the council,

My name is Luka Jacobi-Krohn, a member of the Minnesota Youth Council. A 36-member council of young people representing the 8 congressional districts in Minnesota. Empowered with the crucial task of amplifying the voices of youth across Minnesota, we approach our duties with full commitment and sincerity.

I attend Edina High School. I am a at large representative and co-chair of the juvenile justice committee on the Minnesota Youth Council. I want to express the need for having students on school boards.

Students are often left out of crucial decisions made by school boards which impacts their learning experience and environment. Many school boards across Minnesota regularly hold meetings where students are not invited to provide input or changes are passed without even consulting students.

Students are the ones who see firsthand the problems in their school community and are the best resource for school boards as they know potential solutions to address the issues. Having seats on the School boards required to be filled by students would allow them to have a seat at the table and would positively benefit the school.

Students should be on school boards so they can best help create change in their schools and help members of the board decide on the correct path forward when deciding items like changing the curriculum or budgeting.

The platform would also be a way to give a voice to the entire student body in voicing concerns. It also helps foster civic engagement for those elected to serve on the board. It is vital that students in these positions also have voting power as without that aspect their input can be easily disregarded.

Let's help bring more youth into important decision-making meetings by supporting a bill that would require students to be on school boards. Let's help improve our schools by taking this step forward.