Hello Minnesota Legislators,

My name is Tracee Anderson and I am the Director of the Know the Truth ™ Prevention Program. Since 2006, we've been providing substance misuse awareness, prevention education, and peer based prevention, intervention and recovery services in Minnesota's School Districts, and have educated 800,000+ students in grades 6-12 in Minnesota.

We fully support SF 3171 to mandate that a school must provide substance misuse awareness and prevention instruction at least once to students in grades 6-8. We however, wish for the services to be offered more than once and for them to be embedded into the school's chemical health framework. In order to fully support student's mental health and chemical health needs, we believe a full continuum of prevention education and resources should be offered, and due to the nature of the challenges, we encourage it to be peer led.

Our program is offered through a peer to peer approach, we utilize individuals in recovery with personal stories of substance use to deliver our prevention, intervention, and recovery based techniques. Currently, we partner with 300 schools state-wide, and have co-located prevention and recovery services on site, embedded into 5 school districts. We are positioned to be utilized statewide, and have the framework to expand; however our needs are based on funding.

Program Results: After experiencing our presentations:

- Students are **5x** less likely to try a substance than they were before.
- On average, **80%** of students state they will quit using or use less after hearing the KTT presentation.

Again, we fully support this bill, however would love to see more and more services being offered to students in a way that they receive them; our peer to peer approach. We would be happy to provide more info on our program's services and would love to join in any discussions on how we can offer better prevention and support services to Minnesota's Youth.

Thank you,

Tracee Anderson

Tracee Anderson
715-441-4971
tanderson@mnpra.org