

March 12, 2023

Representative Sandra Feist
409 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Honorable Representative Feist,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the St. Anthony Community Wellness Center project and to request your assistance in securing funding for this project in the upcoming bonding bill.

As a long-time member of the New Brighton community, I have seen firsthand the positive impact that community facilities can have on the well-being of our residents. I was an original staff member at St. Anthony Village High School when the school opened in 1961. Since then, with my 62-year history in this area, including 33 years teaching in the St. Anthony-New Brighton School District, 18 years on the school board, and being honored as St. Anthony Villager of the Year and inducted into the St. Anthony Village High School Hall of Fame, I can attest to the positive impact that facilities can have on a community. I have participated in and witnessed many excellent projects to make improvements over the years, and will be the first to say we need to keep going with these efforts - more work is needed to connect our community to its residents - from our youngest to our oldest!

We have a vibrant and active community, but we lack sufficient indoor space for activities. The addition of a wellness center would provide a much-needed resource for community members of all ages to remain active and healthy. As a former educator, I strongly believe that providing opportunities for youth to stay active is crucial to their overall development and success. As a member of the growing senior citizen community, I know that we are in desperate need of a resource like the proposed Wellness Center, particularly during poor weather. We are in desperate need of a facility we can use to maintain both our physical and emotional health – exercising in the fitness areas and gathering for other activities, using an indoor walking area, and enrichment in the meeting spaces.

The funding requested in the bonding bill would allow us to create a space that benefits both students and community members. Without the funding support, it is highly unlikely that this project can come to fruition. I strongly urge you to support this project and include \$8 million in funding for the St. Anthony Community Wellness Center in the upcoming bonding bill. I can confidently say that this project would be a valuable addition to our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David Evans
New Brighton, MN

651-633-4229