

March 13, 2023

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

Dear Representative Feist:

My name is Joel Maturi. I have spent over 50 years doing whatever I can to help build relationships and community through schools - from the high school to college level. I was privileged to spend the last ten years of my career serving as the University of Minnesota's Athletic Director. When my wife, Lois, and I were looking for a place to plant our retirement roots, we chose St. Anthony Village. Conveniently located between downtown Minneapolis, St. Paul, and the U of M - the area has a nice safe, quaint feel. A sense of community is important for our family. Only minutes from both Twin Cities, the St. Anthony area gave the small-town feel like we grew up with in Chisholm - Senator Tomassoni was a good friend of mine! We value the school district and City of St. Anthony's service. What we soon noticed we were missing from the area, however, was a place for growing community together. The proposed St. Anthony Community Wellness Center, located in the center of the community, is a very worthy project and needed asset for this area. I would like to take the opportunity here to share my support for this project.

This project would blend years of conversation to meet the community's needs. From our youth to our senior citizens, we need a place for area residents to engage and to stay active. Especially in the winter months, such a place as the proposed project does not exist. This facility would provide meeting spaces, a fitness center, indoor turf areas, expanded aquatic opportunities, an all-season indoor walking area, and emerging activities such as yoga and pickleball.

This is one great opportunity to strengthen the social connections and sense of community in our area. It is my hope you will give this project serious consideration and funding - it is a project with wide-impact and reach, benefiting a broad range of Minnesotans.

Please do not hesitate contacting me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



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