



Ignite Afterschool
1400 Van Buren St NE Suite 203
Minneapolis, MN 55413

March 1st, 2023

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of Ignite Afterschool to express our enthusiastic support for HF158/SF194, which proposes the establishment of a state-run Minnesota Youth Advisory Committee. Our organization strongly believes that by creating a council modeled after the state's successful ethnic councils, we can ensure that youth voice is given due importance in decision-making spaces that affect a wide range of issue areas.

As an organization committed to uniting Minnesota's afterschool community and strengthening afterschool programs through partnership, education, and advocacy, we are well aware that our success depends on the participation of young people in co-creating programs and solutions with us. The establishment of a Minnesota Youth Advisory Council will provide numerous opportunities for students to testify, shape policy, and work with decision-makers at all levels. This would enhance transparency and accountability with those we elect and expand access for young people to take part in leadership and decision-making.

I urge you to support HF158/SF194 and ensure that youth voice and leadership is valued and elevated in our state government. We believe that this will go a long way to strengthen the voices of young people and advance the well-being of our communities. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Kari Denissen Cunnien
Executive Director