

As a member of the Minnesota Youth Council, I have seen firsthand the positive impact that having a youth voice in government can have. The council provides a platform for young people to be heard and actively engage in shaping the policies that affect their lives. Through my experiences on the council, I have gained valuable skills and knowledge in leadership, civic engagement and policy-making.

As a person of color, I understand the importance of having diverse perspectives represented in decision-making. Growing up, I often felt like my community's needs and concerns were not being taken into account by those in power. This is why I joined the youth council- I knew that the most important decisions that directly affected us were made without any input or involvement from youth, particularly youth of color.

As a representative of the youth of Minnesota, I urge this committee to support this bill which will institutionalize the Youth Council and provide a platform for youth to actively fight for the issues that matter most to us. This bill will not only empower youth but also provide continuity in leadership development and increase political participation among young people.

The Minnesota Youth Council is unique in that it provides real-life opportunities for young people to make a difference in their communities. By supporting this bill, you will be writing history and setting a national example, and most importantly, you will be providing a platform for the next generation of leaders to shape the future of our state. I ask for your support in passing this bill and creating a brighter future for the youth of Minnesota.

-Noah Yehalashet, Junior at Woodbury Math and Science Academy