



CORNERSTONE
REBUILDING LIVES, RESTORING HOPE

February 6, 2023

To the House Representatives of Minnesota,

Cornerstone knows the important role of preventative education and youth support in putting an end to domestic and sexual violence. The Youth Intervention Programs grant has been essential for ensuring Cornerstone's work in schools is completed properly and effectively. The grant has allowed us to provide education to middle and high school students around healthy relationships, productive communication, and the importance of bystander intervention.

The response we receive from teachers and students makes it clear that this information is valuable and has an impact in the lives of youth. For instance, students have told us or their teachers how they've been able to identify unhealthy and abusive behaviors when interacting with others. I've also included some of the responses we receive in our surveys to youth below.

"It was very helpful. I learned a lot about what abuse actually looks like."

"This helped me realize someone is more abusive than I thought"

"It's nice to see this be talked about to young impressionable students, especially those with no experience in relationships/witnessing abuse. While growing up I watched my mother be abused in every way possible by my father and I feel like it's not talked about enough, or deeply enough."

Additionally, the YIP grant allows our advocates to support youth one-on-one. We have helped youth navigate abusive situations, develop coping skills, create plans for reaching their goals, and much more. Both our prevention education and our one-on-one support have made a difference in the lives of youth, and it's all possible with the help of the YIP grant. We know there is so much more we can do with additional funding and ask for your support in passing HF 1048.

Sincerely,
Wilson Yang
School Based Services Coordinator
Cornerstone Advocacy Service