



February 29, 2024

Members of the Senate Education Policy Committee
Via Electronic Delivery

Re: Letter in Support of Senate File 3746

Chair Cwodinski and Members of the Education Policy Committee:

Phumulani is a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing domestic violence and sexual abuse in communities of color throughout Minnesota and the nation. By providing culturally-specific resources to women and girls of African descent, we hope to change the cycle of gender-based abuse in the vulnerable populations.

Today, we are writing in support of Senate File 3746, which would designate the commissioner of education to begin the rulemaking process to adopt statewide academic standards in health. The establishment of such standards would take actionable steps toward ensuring that all Minnesotans are equipped with the knowledge and skills to attain their highest level of health. Furthermore, these standards aim to center the wellbeing of young people and provide the necessary tools to make informed decisions and positive impacts on themselves and their peers throughout their lifespan.

Young people are at risk of continued health hazards such as disease, psychological stressors, substance misuse, violence, and more without these standards. A holistic approach to health education is essential to preventing harm and creating safer and thriving communities across the state of Minnesota. The development of these standards further builds a Minnesota that upholds our reputation for being a national leader in education.

As an Nonprofit with a focus on harm reduction, establishing statewide health standards will empower the youth of Minnesota to live safer and healthier lives and have long-term benefits in communities across the state. Phumulani respectfully requests your support for Senate File 3746.

In Community,

Comfort Dondo
Executive Director, Phumulani