

April 11, 2024

Dear Chair Kunesh, and members of the Education Finance Committee,

On behalf of Youthprise, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for S.F. No. 3746, the Health Education Statewide Academic Standards bill. As an organization dedicated to empowering and advocating for youth across our state, we believe that comprehensive health education is essential for the well-being and success of our young people.

S.F. No. 3746, represents a significant step towards ensuring that all students have access to high-quality health education. By establishing health as a required statewide academic standard, this bill will ensure that young people receive the necessary knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.

We commend the provisions within the bill that address key areas of health education, including CPR and defibrillator education, vaping awareness and prevention, substance use education, and sexual health education. These topics are of critical importance in today's society, and it is imperative that our education system equips young people with the tools they need to navigate these issues safely and responsibly.

Furthermore, the inclusion of optional expectations for learning, such as mental health education, child sexual abuse prevention, violence prevention, character development, and safe and supportive schools' education, demonstrates a comprehensive approach to addressing the diverse needs of our youth.

We appreciate the inclusion of youth perspectives in the development of statewide health education standards. It is crucial that the voices and experiences of young people are considered in shaping these standards, as they are the ones directly impacted by the curriculum. After connecting with the US Department of Education, we could be the first state in the nation to thoughtfully include young people in their standards development. By involving youth in the standards development process, we can ensure that the content is relevant, engaging, and effective in meeting the needs of students.

We urge you to continue your efforts in advancing this important legislation. By supporting S.F. No. 3746, we can prioritize the health and well-being of our young people and empower them to lead healthy, fulfilling lives.

Thank you for your dedication to improving education and supporting the health and well-being of youth in our state.

Sincerely,

Kristy Snyder
Policy & System Transformation Officer