



March 6th, 2024

Chair Omar Fateh  
3219 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Nicole Mitchell  
3229 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Fateh and Senator Mitchell,

We Choose Us (WCU) is a coalition of over 40 grassroots organizations, unions and advocacy groups committed to building multiracial democracy in Minnesota. We write to share our support for SF3616 (Mitchell), which would provide greater ability for students to vote on campus at their post-secondary institutions.

Students at post-secondary institutions face numerous barriers to accessing the polls. Many are first-time voters who lack crucial information about where, when, and how to vote. Some students move to other cities or states for college and are unaware of polling sites and procedures in their new locations. Students are also less likely to own cars and thus lack access to transportation for off-campus voting.

This bill would make on-campus polling locations available to more students, which would greatly reduce these barriers. The bill would also bring a key demographic – young adult voters – into electoral and civic participation now and in the future. Studies show that when young voters are politically engaged earlier in life, they are more likely to become life-long voters<sup>1</sup>.

Over 400,000 students are enrolled in post-secondary institutions in Minnesota. Reducing barriers to student participation will strengthen our state's democracy and invest in the future civic leadership of our state.

We thank Senator Mitchell for recognizing and valuing student voter participation by bringing this legislation forward. We also thank Chair Fateh for prioritizing this legislation for a hearing in the 2024 session.

We urge members of the Senate Higher Education Committee to vote in favor of this crucial, pro-democracy initiative.

Sincerely,  
Lilly Sasse, We Choose Us Campaign Director  
and We Choose Us Coalition Partners:

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<sup>1</sup> CIRCLE, "[Growing Voters: Engaging Youth Before they Reach Voting Age to Strengthen Democracy](#)", August 2019.



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|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 100% Campaign                                 | Jewish Community Action                                  |
| Asian American Organizing Project             | Land Stewardship Project                                 |
| African Career Education and Resources        | League of Women Voters                                   |
| AFL-CIO                                       | Main Street Alliance                                     |
| AFSCME Council 5                              | Minnesota Association of Professional Employees          |
| Ayada Leads                                   | Minnesota Association of Peacemakers                     |
| Barbershop and Black Congregation Cooperative | Minnesota Nurses Association                             |
| CAIR Minnesota                                | Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance |
| Clean Elections Minnesota                     | Minnesota Voice                                          |
| Clean Water Action                            | Minnesota Move to Amend State Network                    |
| COPAL                                         | Muslim Coalition                                         |
| ERA Minnesota                                 | Native American Community Development Institute          |
| Fe y Justicia                                 | New Justice Project                                      |
| Fair Vote                                     | Planned Parenthood                                       |
| Grassroots in Action                          | Pro-Choice MN                                            |
| Healthy Democracy Healthy People              | SEIU                                                     |
| Indivisible                                   | TakeAction Minnesota                                     |
| Inquilinxs Unidxs por Justicia                | Ujamaa Place                                             |
| Inter Faculty Organization                    | Unidos                                                   |
| Interfaith Power and Light                    | We Win Institute                                         |
| ISAIAH                                        | OutFront                                                 |