

Isiah Martin, Camden High School

Hello members of the Senate Education Policy Committee,

My name is Isiah Martin, and I am a Junior student at Camden high school in Minneapolis. I am here today to share my support for SF 0197, which would ensure that students have a voice on school boards by requiring two student members to be included starting in the 2025-2026 school year.

As a student, I see firsthand how decisions made by school boards affect extracurricular activities. However, students rarely have a direct say in these decisions, even though we are the ones most affected by them.

For an example when funding gets cut we lose Electives, Programs and after school clubs.

By allowing students to serve as members of school boards, this bill ensures that student voices are not just heard but truly considered in the decision-making process. Student representatives will bring valuable perspectives that reflect the realities of school life, helping to create policies that better serve our needs.

This bill also establishes a fair process for selecting student board members, ensuring diversity and representation from different student backgrounds. Additionally, it provides necessary training and guidelines to help students be effective in their roles.

I believe that when students are given leadership opportunities, we show up and make a difference. Student Leadership matters to me because

I urge you to support SF 0197 so that students across Minnesota have a meaningful role in shaping their education. Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions.

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