



Dear Chair Cwodzinski and Members of the Education Policy Committee,

RiseUp Partnership is a non-profit organization that creates opportunities for Goodhue youth to thrive. Such as mentoring, independent living skills for youth to succeed in everyday life, and leadership opportunities. An extension of our leadership is the Community Youth Council (C.Y.C). Our goal is to help the youth to be active leaders, and bridge the gap between youth and adults. We are asking for your continued support on bill SF-0197 or the School board membership requirements modification.

We are firm believers that if youth is being discussed, they need to have a seat at the table and actively be involved in the conversation. SF-0197 would allow students a voice in the community that directly affects them. Most board members lack awareness of current school experiences leading to miscommunications about student struggles. Having a fresh perspective would result in more meaningful and effective actions that better meet the needs of those involved.

We are grateful for the legislature's continued support of this bill. We believe this will have a positive outcome for local communities and give needed first-hand experiences to school boards across MN. Creating a more inclusive and responsive educational environment for all.

Sincerely,

The Community Youth Council

Alyvia Xiong, Payten Jaynes, Abigail Beyers, Amarie Williams, Jaylen Hoffman, Katherine Tazin, Keaton McCoy, Maddison Wood, Melody Marquardt, Payton Avery