

To: Members of the Minnesota Education Policy Committee:

My name is Robert Wedl, and I am in support of the short but meaningful amendment that students are asking be made via SF 2234.

I served as Minnesota's Commissioner of Education (then Children, Families and Learning) from 1996-1999 in the administration of Governor Arne Carlson. I also served as Deputy Commissioner of Education in the administration of Governor Rudy Perpich.

The short amendment recommended in SF 2234 and the state Health Standards are especially significant for several reasons including:

1. The needs of today's youth and young adults is in a crises mode. I appreciate that you recognize this. While HF 2023 is clearly needed, the amendment being proposed by our students and young adults is so crucial.
2. Overdose recognition, response and prevention is key. Prevention especially is always the best remedy. I recognize prevention is a family and community responsibility, but school is a safe place to learn.
3. By placing this into the health standard, it better assures that the focus will not only be in health class but rather will be integrated throughout the school's curriculum.
4. Having this amendment recommended by students is significant. They see their world better than any of us and how their lives interact with that environment.

I urge your support of this amendment.

Thank you members for your ongoing work on behalf of our children and youth; on behalf of our future.