

DATE: March 17, 2025

TO: Members of the Minnesota Senate K-12 Education Policy Committee

FROM: Patti Haasch, MAAP STARS Co-Chair

RE: House File 2023/Senate File 223

Suggested Clarification as an Amendment to ~ Subdivision 1 of Statue 120B.021

As a 40+ year Minnesota public school educator and administrator, who has primarily worked with at-risk students in greater Minnesota, I am in full support of what the current high schoolers are recommending to add to what is already written in statue. I strongly believe we need to listen to their concerns.

Our High School Student Leaders are recommending adding seven words to clarify current language following the words to – ***“Substance Abuse:***

“includes overdose recognition, prevention, and response training”

They want to include this training in at least one required health class for all Minnesota Public High School students to take prior to graduation.

I appreciate this Committee’s considering honoring their request for something that can potentially save precious lives. They believe this is both a crucial and missing piece that should be added which is vital in preventing overdoses and opioid-related deaths of their peers. Their awareness and insights into how vital this is indicates their sincerity in bringing this to the Committee’s attention. I commend their courage to offer a simple solution to people having a better knowledge of lifesaving measures. My hope is that the Committee will heed their advice.

Thank You for your time,

Patti Haasch