

MINNESOTA ALLIANCE WITH YOUTH

March 24, 2025

Support for HF2372 (Mueller)/SF2565 (Cwodzinski) Civic Seal Designation

Dear Committee members,

Minnesota Alliance With Youth is a statewide nonprofit that develops leaders who foster young people's individual assets, honor their voices, and prepare them to reach their goals. Guided by our organizational value of Honoring Youth, we believe that youth are experts in their lived experiences, and that it is essential to respect their perspectives by including them in decision-making processes that impact them. As the host organization for the statutorily created Minnesota Youth Council, we believe deeply in developing the civic experience and skills of today's youth.

We strongly support the creation of the Civic Seal designation as an opportunity for Minnesota students. A dozen other states either currently offer this opportunity to their students or are in the process of developing the opportunity for young people in their states. We urge Minnesota to join in this movement to provide youth the opportunity to demonstrate individual excellence and involvement in academic and community involvement.

Additionally, Minnesota Alliance With Youth would like to further recommend that criteria for achieving the Civic Seal be nonpartisan, allow for project-based community involvement, include self-reflection as a component, honor and include recognition of involvement in Tribal government, and emphasize the development and practice of skills in civic discourse and respect for different viewpoints, experiences, and beliefs.

We appreciate the efforts by the authors and encourage Committee members' support of the Civic Seals opportunity for Minnesota students.

Best,



Jim Davnie
Executive Director
Minnesota Alliance With Youth