



Office of Senator Cwodzinski
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3207
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 23, 2025

Dear Chair Cwodzinski and Members of the Senate Education Policy Committee,

The undersigned organizations have a shared commitment to equipping every student with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to participate as informed members of our self-governing democracy. We urge you to support the creation of a Minnesota Civic Seal (SF 2565/HF 2372) to encourage civic learning, promote participation in democratic institutions, and recognize students who go beyond standard graduation requirements to prepare themselves as citizens.

There is broad concern about declining civic engagement among young people. Many students feel disconnected from civic life and lack sufficient understanding of how our government operates. Currently, only 2 in 5 young people feel prepared to participate civically based on their educational experiences. The bipartisan Civic Seal program addresses these challenges by incentivizing students to develop crucial civic knowledge, skills and dispositions needed for lifelong civic participation.

By establishing a Civic Seal, Minnesota would join twelve other states - both red and blue - that have taken this proactive step to emphasize the value of civic education.

The process of earning Civic Seal involves learning about important civic issues, government functions, democratic principles, and citizen rights and responsibilities. Requirements include completing coursework in civics or government; participating in a project-based assessment;

undertaking at least one civic activity outside the classroom; and demonstrating a commitment to civic values. will provide students with recognition for their achievements while fostering a culture of thoughtful, engaged citizens.

We believe that a healthy democracy relies on active participation from its citizens, and education must play a critical role in fostering civic knowledge, skills, and participation. Research shows that robust civic education correlates with higher voting rates, increased community involvement, and stronger democratic institutions.

We urge you to invest in our state's future by supporting the Minnesota Civic Seal and empowering the next generation to contribute meaningfully to their communities and our society as a whole.

Sincerely,

Michelle Witte
Executive Director
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

Jim Davnie
Executive Director
Minnesota Alliance With Youth

Amy Meuers
CEO
National Youth Leadership Council

Amy Anderson
Executive Director
YMCA Center for Youth Voice

Staci Allmaras
Youth Program Director
The Bridge Center

Hon. Steve Simon
Secretary of State
Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State