



Senator John Marty
Minnesota Senate
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155

April 23, 2025

Dear Chair Marty and Finance Committee Members:

This letter is in support of Senator Champion's bill SF 1832. Bolder Options is glad to have had the opportunity to present our work to the jobs committee and we are deeply grateful to be included in the Senate's omnibus bill so we can continue to grow the number of young people with access to our life-changing programming.

Bolder Options made a bold commitment last year to stay engaged - all the way through to college and/or career - with every young person who completes our first year mentorship program. Research shows that starting career exploration in middle school is a developmentally appropriate time to think about future possibilities and understand the diverse range of careers available. **Considering options early teaches youth about skills and aptitude needed for careers of interest and allows them to make more concrete career choices later in high school.** For especially vulnerable teens like those referred to our program, supportive mentorship and the act of pursuing goals builds confidence critical for believing they can achieve future goals.

Funding last biennium helped us double the number of young people participating in our mentorship, leadership, and career exploration programming. By supporting our current bill, you are investing in the potential of more than 500 young people in the Twin Cities and Rochester who simply need extra support, skills, and access to identify and achieve their career goals. With your support, we can scale up and deliver our support to more young people faster than we could any other way.

On behalf of all of us at Bolder Options, **thank you for your support** - and for your service to our communities. (We hope to introduce some of you to our youth next year to share about public service as a career option!)

Peace,

Darrell Thompson
President & CEO