

April 8, 2025

Hello,

I am writing regarding the STARBASE services. I am very concerned to hear that this amendment is being brought forward. STARBASE is an amazing program for our youth and I am devastated of this proposal.

The Senate Delete All Amendment to SF2255 removed all funding for STARBASE, typically \$500,000 per year. A small portion of the funding is used to expand staffing for onsite programs, with the bulk of funding used for the STEM kits that go out to 438 schools and 35,000 students in the state.

The loss of the funding will mean STEM kits would no longer be available to schools and onsite programming would be reduced. As a parent of a child who took advantage of this program with his school, as well as a teacher, I have seen firsthand the positive impact this program has had on our youth.

Please reconsider this amendment.

Amy Fitzsimmons  
218-235-1694  
4695 County Road 61  
Moose Lake MN 55767