



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE BEMIDJI AREA

March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area, I would like to show my support for the Youth Intervention Programs Grant Bill, HF 2362. By passing this bill, you will help young people across Minnesota access resources and opportunities.

The Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area is a current YIP grant holder, and we serve over 400 youth annually through out-of-school-time and summer programming across three sites. We help youth in four priority areas: academic success, health & wellbeing, character & leadership, and life & workforce readiness.

We've seen the difference YIP funding can make directly. The YIP grant helps support our largest site in Bemidji, which serves over 120 kids each day in grades 1-12. With YIP's generous funding we have been able to increase our staffing, which has allowed us to serve more children with high-quality youth development programming in an area with high poverty and high need.

YIP funding has a direct and positive impact on the lives of young people and their families, increasing their access to programs that provide academic help and other critical resources. Please vote to fully fund the YIP grant program.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kent

Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area