

CHANGE INC.

March 17, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

We are writing to you today in support of the Youth Intervention Programs grant bill (HF 2362).

Change Inc. is the product of a merger of two community-based organizations, Guadalupe Alternative Programs and Change Inc., both originally founded to serve underserved individuals and address the challenges of systemic poverty and racism that prevent Twin Cities families from achieving their full potential. Change Inc., and the youth we serve, rely on funding from the Youth Intervention Program grant and want to express our ongoing support for its continuation.

We provide individualized education that attends to the social-emotional needs of students, including mental health services and basic needs resources such as meals, childcare, and transportation. Because the challenges facing our students and their families are continually shifting, Change Inc. works to adapt and create programs that respond to the moving needs of our participants. Currently, our work is divided into three key programs: GAP School, the Community & School Collaborative (CSC), and the Change Institute.

The young people we serve are directly impacted by our programming that comes from the Youth Intervention Programs Association. Our Community Leadership Development Training interns completed training courses through YIPA, including The Art and Science of Youth Work. Our staff members take part in YIPA trainings throughout the year as well. Members of our Student Board at GAP School will also take part in YIPA-organized advocacy.

This all requires adequate funding. With more funding for youth development programs, organizations like ours can continue to help young people reach their full potential. Thank you for continuing to back funding for Youth Intervention Programs so we can support more youth every day.

Sincerely,



Jody Nelson, Ed.D., LMFT
Senior Director of Change Institute, Change Inc.

**CHANGE
INSTITUTE**

**GAP
SCHOOL**

**COMMUNITY
& SCHOOL
COLLABORATIVE**

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