

**Mandy Arden**

Executive Director  
RiseUp RiseUp Partnership  
410 Guernsey Lane  
Red Wing, MN 55066  
mandy@riseuppartnership.org  
651-468-5677  
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**RE: Letter of Support for HF 2362 – Appropriation for Youth Intervention Programs**

Dear Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of **Red Wing Youth Outreach Program, Inc. DBA RiseUp Partnership, and the Goodhue County Community Youth Council**, I am writing to express our strong support for **HF 2362**, which appropriates **\$3,000,000 in fiscal years 2026 and 2027** for Youth Intervention Programs under Minnesota Statutes, section 142A.43.

As organizations dedicated to empowering youth in Red Wing and across Goodhue County, we witness firsthand the transformative impact of youth intervention programs. These initiatives provide critical support to young people who face systemic barriers, ensuring they have access to **mentorship, education, employment opportunities, and community engagement**. Programs like ours work to **reduce justice system involvement, support mental health, and increase pathways to success for at-risk youth**.

Without adequate funding, these vital services will be at risk, leaving vulnerable youth without the guidance and resources they need. Investing in youth intervention not only improves outcomes for young individuals but also strengthens communities, reduces long-term costs in social services, and enhances Minnesota's future workforce.

We urge the **Minnesota Legislature** to support **HF 2362** and ensure that Youth Intervention Programs receive the necessary funding to continue this essential work. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Minnesota's youth. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require additional information or wish to discuss the impact of these programs further.

Sincerely,

Mandy Arden  
Executive Director, RiseUp Partnership

Goodhue County Community Youth Council Members:

Amarie William  
Katherin Tazin  
Belen Machado  
Jaylen Hoffman  
Keaton McCoy

Parker Jacobson  
Abigail Beyers  
Madison Wood  
Brodie Marquardt  
CJ Brandt

**We are on a mission to ensure Goodhue County offers abundant opportunities for all young people to unleash their potential. We serve youth and families through caring, responsive programming, and we foster shared action among partners committed to supporting youth.**