



March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to advocate for increased funding for youth intervention programs, which play a critical role in fostering positive development and community engagement for young people.

RiseUp Red Wing is a not-for-profit organization in Red Wing that provides one-on-one mentoring for students in our Afterschool Program. We serve underrepresented youth seeking meaningful connections with caring adults and a stronger sense of belonging within their community.

Our mentoring program focuses on developing social-emotional skills in five key areas: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, responsible decision-making, and relationship skills. We are seeing a growing number of young people entering our program without positive connections to others in the community or access to programs that promote emotional well-being. Without these critical support systems, youth face limited opportunities and, too often, make choices that negatively impact their futures.

Youth intervention programs like RiseUp Red Wing have proven to be effective. According to our social-emotional competencies survey, **76% of youth participants reported feeling competent in all five social-emotional skill areas, and 94% demonstrated improvement in at least one area.** However, to sustain and expand these best practices, **adequate financial resources are essential.**

With additional youth intervention program funding, organizations like RiseUp Red Wing can **recruit more mentors, provide individualized support, and empower more young people to become engaged, contributing members of the community.** I urge you to prioritize funding for youth intervention programs in this budget session to ensure that young people have the resources they need to succeed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Jenna Collins

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