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March 17, 2025

Chair Champion and Members of the Jobs and Economic
Development Committee
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 1100
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Jobs and Economic
Development Committee,

Thank you all for your leadership and public service for our State – I and all of us here at The Link greatly appreciate it! I am writing this letter on behalf of The Link and the youth and families that we provide support, emergency shelter and housing for. The Link is a nonprofit that provides crisis intervention, supportive services, emergency shelter and housing for youth and young families who are experiencing homelessness or who have been victims of sex trafficking. We also provide five juvenile justice alternative programs.

I am writing this letter in strong support of S.F. 2167 which would provide funds for Mind the G.A.P.P. As I am sure you are all aware – it is incredibly challenging for anyone to get out of poverty without the necessary skills, experience or credentials to gain employment within a field that will provide an income that is able to cover basic living expenses. Mind the G.A.P.P. provides employment assistance programs that specifically focuses on providing opportunities for Black men and women who have been struggling with poverty, who are turning their lives around after exiting prison and/or who are single parents or more to be able to receive the career development coaching, training and credentials needed to be able to get their commercial driver's license and a higher paying job within this field or another field they are interested in. Bishop Johnson and his team are people who deeply care about the men and women they are working with and individually support them along with the career programming – they are truly people who make a difference.

The Link partners with Mind the G.A.P.P. and I also have the honor of serving on their Board of Directors. I get to see first hand the impact that this program has. Once a person has been through the Mind the G.A.P.P. programming – their and their family are no longer living in poverty and are on a path towards a much brighter future.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Beth Holger