



April 23, 2025

RE: Youth Programming Needs Assessment - HF2436

Dear Co-Chair Stephenson, Co-Chair Torkelson, and Members of the Committee,

We are writing today to share our appreciation for the work on the omnibus finance bill for Children, Youth, and Families and express our disappointment that provisions from HF1660, the assessment on out of school time and youth programming needs, were not included.

The United 4 Youth campaign launched because in listening sessions across the state, families shared that a lack of safe and enriching opportunities for youth is a top concern. Families are struggling with the approximately 2,000 hours of time youth have each year out of school, including many hours of the day that parents are working.

The demand for youth programming is high, and many families are out of luck if they cannot afford them. Congregations, mosques and other nonprofits are doing their best to provide safe spaces and youth activities, but there is still an enormous gap.

The youth programming needs assessment will help identify key challenges, policy solutions, and provide a roadmap for how Minnesota can build on the the assets we have to expand opportunities for youth.

We urge continued work on this issue this session. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Fullman and Abdulahi Farah
United 4 Youth