

UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA

JOIN THE FIGHT.

921 1<sup>st</sup> Street N. Suite 200  
St. Cloud, MN 56303  
320-252-0227  
info@unitedwayhelps.org

April 2, 2025

Dear Members of the Committee on Higher Education,

I am writing to express my strong support for **HF 2908: the MinneKIDS Act** (Rep. Kotyza-Witthun). As a representative of **United Way of Central Minnesota**, we have been actively involved in efforts to create a meaningful pathway to educational success for Minnesota's youngest citizens. We believe that this bill is a critical step forward in ensuring that children across our state have the resources they need to pursue higher education and achieve their dreams.

Currently, over 3,000 babies are born in our Central Minnesota service area each year, and many of these children face significant barriers to accessing higher education. By creating a 529 children's savings accounts (CSAs) at birth, the MinneKIDS Act would provide these children with an important financial tool to help bridge the gap between aspiration and attainment. These accounts would grow over time, including community incentives to both the family and the child, providing vital funds that could be used for educational purposes upon high school graduation.

United Way of Central Minnesota has had the privilege of working in collaboration with **Youthprise** and other community organizations to develop a blueprint for what this program could look like in practice. Research demonstrates the significant impact of even modest savings on post-secondary education outcomes: students with even less than \$500 in a savings account are **three times more likely** to attend college, and of those students, they are **four times more likely** to graduate. This bill has the potential to make a profound difference in the lives of thousands of children across Minnesota, setting them on a path to success and financial stability.

The MinneKIDS Act represents an opportunity to invest in the future of Minnesota's children and ensure that all children—regardless of their background or economic status—have the opportunity to pursue and succeed in higher education. I urge you to support the passage of this bill and help create a brighter, more equitable future for Minnesota's youth.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We stand ready to assist in any way we can as you move forward with this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

**Alexis Lutgen**  
Director of Financial Security  
United Way of Central Minnesota

Because change doesn't happen alone.





## Healthy Community Initiative

1651 Jefferson Parkway  
Northfield, MN 55057  
507-664-3524  
[healthycommunityinitiative.org](http://healthycommunityinitiative.org)

March 31, 2025

To Whom it May Concern:

I'm reaching out to express my support for HF2908: the MinneKIDS Act (Rep. Kotyza-Witthun). With the final deadline approaching, we ask that HF2908 be heard in the Higher Education Committee before the committee deadline.

The Minnesota Kids Investment and Development Savings (MinneKIDS) Act is a bill that would allow the state of Minnesota to create a 529 college savings program to help children build savings for their future, such as college, technical school, apprenticeships, and more. Accounts would be opened by the state for every baby born after June 2026, with small deposits made to seed the account. Accounts grow through family contributions and incentives, such as savings matches. Savings help pay for postsecondary education. Research shows that kids with college savings accounts are 3X more likely to attend college and 4X more likely to graduate. Research shows small savings accounts improve students' educational aspirations. In a survey conducted by Lumaris Research in December and January, 58% of Minnesotans responded they favor creating a program like MinneKIDS. Support is consistently high across urban, suburban, and rural areas, is backed by voters across income levels and political affiliation, and racial groups.

Sincerely,

Meleah Follen  
Network Impact Director  
Healthy Community Initiative  
612-220-5302

*Thriving youth. Thriving community.*



March 31, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm reaching out to express my support for HF2908: the MinneKIDS Act (Rep.Kotzya-Witthun). With the final deadline approaching, we ask that HF2908 be heard in the Higher Education Committee before the committee deadline.

The Minnesota Kids Investment and Development Savings (MinneKIDS) Act is a bill that would allow the state of Minnesota to create a 529 college savings program to help children build savings for their future, such as college, technical school, apprenticeships, and more. Accounts would be opened by the state for every baby born after June 2026, with small deposits made to seed the account. Accounts grow through family contributions and incentives, such as savings matches.

Savings help pay for postsecondary education.

- Research shows that kids with college savings accounts are three times more likely to attend college and four times more likely to graduate.
- Research shows small savings accounts improve students' educational aspirations.
- In a survey conducted by Lumaris Research in December and January, 58% of Minnesotans responded they favor creating a program like MinneKIDS.

Support is consistently high across urban, suburban, and rural areas, is backed by voters across income levels and political affiliation, and racial groups. I am excited about the impact that it could have in a community like Faribault!

Sincerely,

Zach Pruitt  
Community Education & Engagement Director  
Faribault Public Schools



April 1, 2025

Support the MinneKIDS Act (HF2908)

My name is Renee Williams, CEO of Equitable Access College Consulting. At EA College Consulting, our mission is to create transformative educational opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds.

As a first-generation college graduate, I understand the complexities of considering what life looks like on the other side of high school graduation. For many, very capable students, college or a trade, while desired, is out of reach due to cost and a lack of other resources. I contend that it is time for Minnesota to catch up to so many cities around the country and support our communities through the barriers of educational opportunities. For Minnesota to produce a world-class workforce to work in our plethora of Fortune 500 corporation headquarters, we need a drastic shift in mindset and a systems change around the way we think about the future of our children.

I recently moved back to the twin cities from the SF Bay Area, where in 2016, various parts of the region made a promise to every child that enables them to seek and thrive in higher education using the 529 vehicle.

This is why I am passionate about HF2908: the MinneKIDS Act.

With the final deadline approaching, it is my hope that HF2908 be heard in the Higher Education Committee before the committee deadline.

**Fast Facts-**

The Minnesota Kids Investment and Development Savings (MinneKIDS) Act is a bill that would allow the state of Minnesota to create a 529 college savings program to help children build savings for their future, such as college, technical school, apprenticeships, and more:

- Accounts would be opened by the state for every baby born after June 2026, with small deposits made to seed the account.
- Accounts grow through family contributions and incentives, such as savings matches.
- Savings help pay for postsecondary education.

Equitable Access College Consulting  
www.eacollegeconsulting.com  
631 E. 77<sup>th</sup> St. #201  
Richfield, MN. 55423  
Ph:612-643-3300



EQUITABLE ACCESS  
COLLEGE CONSULTING

- Research shows that kids with college savings accounts are 3X more likely to attend college and 4X more likely to graduate.
- Research shows small savings accounts improve students' educational aspirations. In a survey conducted by Lumaris Research in December and January, 58% of Minnesotans responded they favor creating a program like MinneKIDS.
- Support is consistently high across urban, suburban, and rural areas, is backed by voters across income levels and political affiliation, and racial groups.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

*Renee Williams*

Renee Williams, CEO  
Equitable Access College Consulting

Equitable Access College Consulting  
[www.eacollegeconsulting.com](http://www.eacollegeconsulting.com)  
631 E. 77<sup>th</sup> St. #201  
Richfield, MN. 55423  
Ph:612-643-3300

March 31, 2025

I'm reaching out to express my support for HF2908: the MinneKIDS Act (Rep. Kotyza-Witthun). With the final deadline approaching, we ask that HF2908 be heard in the Higher Education Committee before the committee deadline.

The Minnesota Kids Investment and Development Savings (MinneKIDS) Act is a bill that would allow the state of Minnesota to create a 529 college savings program to help children build savings for their future, such as college, technical school, apprenticeships, and more. Accounts would be opened by the state for every baby born after June 2026, with small deposits made to seed the account. Accounts grow through family contributions and incentives, such as savings matches. Savings help pay for postsecondary education. Research shows that kids with college savings accounts are 3X more likely to attend college and 4X more likely to graduate. Research shows small savings accounts improve students' educational aspirations. In a survey conducted by Lumaris Research in December and January, 58% of Minnesotans responded they favor creating a program like MinneKIDS. Support is consistently high across urban, suburban, and rural areas, is backed by voters across income levels and political affiliation, and racial groups.

Sincerely,



Erin Bailey

Director of Community Education

Northfield Public Schools