



Mandy Arden

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Subject: Opposition to HF2532 – Protecting Violence Prevention Funding

Dear Members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the RiseUp Partnership (formerly Red Wing Youth Outreach Program), I am writing to express our **opposition to HF2532**, a bill that would divert critical funding away from violence prevention initiatives in our state. We urge you to reject this measure and instead support continued investment in programs essential to building safer communities.

Violence prevention programs play a crucial role in reducing crime, supporting at-risk individuals, and strengthening community resilience. Organizations like ours work tirelessly to provide education, mentorship, conflict resolution strategies, and support services that address the root causes of violence. Through the RiseUp Partnership, we currently provide violence prevention programming for over **143 youth and adults**. Cutting funding to these programs would have devastating consequences, particularly for communities already disproportionately affected by violence and crime.

Research consistently shows that proactive violence prevention efforts not only **save lives** but also **reduce long-term costs associated with law enforcement, incarceration, and healthcare**. Redirecting these funds away from prevention will only exacerbate existing challenges and ultimately place a greater burden on our public safety and social services systems.

We implore you to prioritize the well-being of Minnesota's communities by opposing HF2532 and safeguarding funding for evidence-based violence prevention initiatives. Our organization stands ready to collaborate with you and other policymakers to develop sustainable solutions that foster peace and safety for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Mandy Arden
Executive Director, RiseUp Partnership

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.