

From: **Rehlander, Jonathon** <jonathon.rehlander@rbc.com>
Date: Wed, Apr 11, 2018 at 11:55 AM
Subject: In support of the SF 1579 and the Minnesota Youth Council
To: "sen.carla.nelson@senate.mn" <sen.carla.nelson@senate.mn>
Cc: Bailey Boelter <bboelter@mnyouth.net>

Chairperson Nelson,

I have had the pleasure of attending a Minnesota Youth Council meeting and working with their coordinators in the past year, and I am proud to support this organization. This group, made up of junior high and high school students, are what we hope for in our young people. They are committed to learning about the legislative process, being politically aware, and willing to do things to make their communities and their state a better place.

At the gathering I attended, I was assisting a group called For Jake's Sake give a presentation. The gathering took place on a weekend with students who had come from all over Minnesota to use their weekend to discuss upcoming legislation. They listened to our presentation attentively, not playing on their phones or having side conversations; they were genuinely interested in hearing more about finding ways to promote better opioid awareness in our schools. They asked questions, pointed at times, asking us to back up our assertions with facts, sources, and statistics. They spoke up about their own experiences and in short, were holding us to a high standard during a weekend when many of their peers were out enjoying unseasonably warm weather.

The Minnesota Youth Council represents what we should hold as the gold standard for engagement in our young people. I was impressed not only by their dedication to their goals, but in the depth of their maturity and acumen about the subject matter they had prepared to address. We need to encourage these activities and ask all students to become more engaged with their communities and knowledge of current events.

By asking our students to hold themselves to a higher level of citizenship, we are giving life to a more engaged community as a whole. I encourage you to support SF 1579 and I thank you for your consideration of it.

Jonathon Rehlander
RBC Capital Markets, LLC
WM Equity Trade Liaison