

February 22, 2021

TO: Education Finance and Policy Committee Members

RE: Support for LiveMore ScreenLess Digital Well-Being grant appropriation, SF#1012

Dear Members of the Minnesota State Legislature:

My name is Tony Sanneh, CEO of The Sanneh Foundation. I am writing in support of the founders of LiveMore ScreenLess, a Minnesota 501©3 nonprofit. Currently, I serve as an advisor to LiveMore ScreenLess.

While LiveMore ScreenLess is a relatively new organization, the founders, Maree Hampton and Katherine Myers, are seasoned educators from the fields of public health and education. They each bring 25 years' experience in education, health, and program evaluation to their Minnesota nonprofit, LiveMore ScreenLess. They are experts in digital wellbeing and are poised to be the premiere resource for digital wellbeing for Minnesota schools, afterschool programs, mental and public health agencies, and community-based organizations working to address and mitigate the harmful effects of screen overuse and misuse by young people. Their innovative approach to a problem most leaders continue to ignore should be seen as a bright light, paving the way for healthier and more balanced use of technology and enabling our children and young people thrive in a digital world. Due to Ms. Hampton and Ms. Myers' combined expertise, experience, and innovative approach to this critical issue, I believe they have the capacity to execute the activities of bill SF1012 and be accountable to you, the Minnesota legislature.

I have direct experience working with Ms. Hampton. Ms. Hampton co-wrote together with my staff, a successful \$250,000 three-year U.S. State Department International Sports Programming Initiative federal grant called, The Sanneh Foundation: *Sport for Social Change: Using Soccer to Promote Mutual Understanding, Social Cohesion and Female Empowerment for Youth and Community Coaches in Haiti and the United States*. Ms. Hampton evaluated and wrote quarterly reports for this complex, international sports programming initiative to help underserved youth develop important leadership skills, achieve academic success, and promote tolerance and respect for diversity. Ms. Hampton directed a multifaceted evaluation and fulfilled the quarterly evaluation requirements of this federal grant throughout the three year grant period. The evaluation reports were submitted with budget reporting for each quarter.

I believe this federal grant reporting and accountability experience, places her in a credible position to be highly accountable to the state legislature for any funds that LiveMore ScreenLess receives. I support and advocate for their organization as a recipient of state funding to support the initiatives in S.F. #1012.

Tony Sanneh CEO  
The Sanneh Foundation

