



**SECURE PROGRAMS**  
1808 NE CIVIC CENTER DR  
PO BOX 894  
WILLMAR MN 56201  
PHONE: 320.231.1729  
FAX 320.231.1166

**NON-SECURE PROGRAMS**  
1804 NE CIVIC CENTER DR  
PO BOX 902  
WILLMAR MN 56201  
PHONE: 320.235.0975  
FAX 320.214.7067

**BOYS GROUP HOME**  
1013 NE LAKELAND DR  
PO BOX 894  
WILLMAR MN 56201  
PHONE: 320.235.6895  
FAX 320.231.3818

**GIRLS GROUP HOME**  
822 NW PARK AVENUE  
PO BOX 894  
WILLMAR MN 56201  
PHONE: 320.235.6637  
FAX 320.235.6659

Brianna Sittig, MSW  
1013 Lakeland Dr NE  
Willmar, MN 56201  
February 12, 2021

The House Education Finance Committee

Re: HF725 (Youakim)/SF782 (Chamberlain)

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my support of passing legislation which would provide Extended Time Revenue to school districts to provide education through the summer for all students in residential, mental health, and juvenile justice placements. As the Program Director of the PLYP Boys Group Home, I have seen first hand the benefits of summer school for youth in placement. Often youth come into care behind on credits and/or skill level of other same-age peers. By allowing the proposed amendments to Minnesota Statutes 202 section 126C.10, subdivision 2a, more youth in care would have the opportunity to recover missing credits, strengthen necessary skill sets, and in some cases get ahead in their schooling. These obvious benefits will only continue to aid in their successes as they reunify with their home communities.

Last year, a youth came into my program as a 17-year-old with fewer high school credits than what would be considered 9<sup>th</sup> grade. He shared that he had always hoped of graduating high school and attending college; unfortunately, due to his family circumstances, school was not a priority for him while living at home. This young man was so motivated that, during his 6 months in care, he was able to earn enough school credits to graduate high school early. He elected to take his GED test instead, which he passed with college-ready scores. During his last update, he had shared that he was taking his ACT and was hoping to enroll in post-secondary school options for the January 2021 semester. This would not have been a reality for this young man had he not had the opportunity to be enrolled in summer school while in care at PLYP.

In honor of this young man, and so many more like him, I would ask that you vote to pass Bill HF725 (Youakim)/SF782 (Chamberlain) and the proposed amendments to Minnesota Statutes 202, section 126C.10, subdivision 2a.

Sincerely,

Brianna Sittig