

AMY KLOBUCHAR  
MINNESOTA

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**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 18, 2017

**Building Assets Reducing Risks (BARR)**  
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Dear Friends:

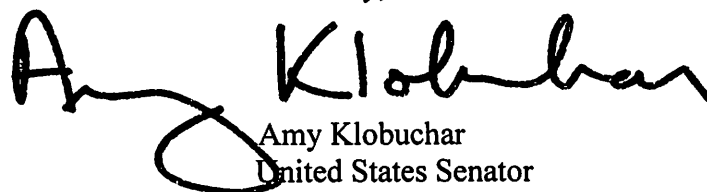
Thank you for the kind invitation to join you today. Though my schedule prevents me from being with you in-person, I would like to take this opportunity to commend Building Assets and Reducing Risks (BARR) for developing positive learning environments built on healthy behavior choices, academic success, and educational equity.

Today, it is vital that our children receive a quality education with life-long learning skills. As the daughter of a public school teacher, I know just how important a good education is to a successful future. That's why I have actively supported funding for BARR through the Department of Education's Investing in Innovation program (i3). The i3 Scale-up grant has allowed BARR to expand its model to 116 additional high schools across the country. And it's no surprise that BARR has become a national model for improving academic performance.

Since 1999, BARR has provided a successful strategic structure that helps educators build safe, strong, and trusting relationships with their students. And you've done so in a variety of ways – helping schools address everything from issues related to academic failure to discipline, substance use, and college and career readiness. Your work has helped ensure that all of our students have a fair shot to succeed, and you're making a lasting impact on so many lives.

So, to all the staff, teachers, counselors and supporters here today: Thank you. I look forward to working with you moving forward, and I am proud to serve you in the United States Senate. Enjoy the rest of this year's Spring Gathering – you deserve it!

Sincerely,

  
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator