



March 14, 2023

Senator Grant Hauschild  
3111 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Sydney Jordan  
553 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

We are writing today to share our deep and ongoing concern with HF 1690 as amended/SF 1633. As representatives of organizations who are charged with the care and management of our school districts and who value and prioritize staff, student outcomes, and learning opportunities, we believe this bill will lead to negative outcomes for public education system.

Our school boards and school administrators play a vital role in our public schools. M.S. 123B.02 states that school boards “must have general charge of the business of the school district, the school houses, and of the interests of the schools thereof. The Board’s authority to govern, manage, and control the district; to carry out its duties and responsibilities; and to conduct the business of the district includes implied powers in addition to any specific powers granted by the legislature.”

The above referenced bills will significantly alter the duties, responsibilities, and authority of our elected school boards and administration. Our communities elect school board members to represent parents, students, and communities making school boards directly accountable to the public.

At this time, our organizations are strongly opposed to HF 1690 as amended/SF 1633. However, sections one and fourteen of the bill are under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee:

**Personnel Data:** Changing “may” to “must” removes the responsible authority (school board and administration) from the section and will grant union unregulated access to school district’s email system that will expose the employee, and district, to unnecessary risk.

In the end, as employers and stewards of public school districts, we care deeply for our employees and our students and want the best possible outcomes for both. We believe that our public schools are better today and, in the future, when we work collaboratively with all our employees.

We appreciate the authors’ time to meet and discuss our identified concerns.

Kirk Schneidawind, MSBA (Minnesota School Boards Association)  
Dr. Deb Henton, MASA (Minnesota Association of School Administrators)  
Robert Driver, MASSP (Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals)  
Jon Millerhagen, MESPA (Minnesota Elementary School Principals’ Association)  
Connie Nordquist, MASBO (Minnesota Association of School Business Officials)  
Scott Croonquist, AMSD (Association of Metro School Districts)  
Robert Indihar, MREA (Minnesota Rural Education Association)