

COALITION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

February 12, 2024

Minnesota Senate
1200 Minnesota Senate Building
Education Policy Committee
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Cwodzinski and Members of the Education Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Coalition for Children with Disabilities, we are writing to express concern on the SRO bill.

We agree with the proposed language that prohibits "any form of physical holding that restricts or impairs a pupil's ability to breathe; restricts or impairs a pupil's ability to communicate distress; places pressure or weight on a pupil's head, throat neck, chest lungs sternum, diaphragm, back or abdomen; or results in straddling a pupil's torso," but we do not agree with carving out an exception to this for law enforcement.

This is especially concerning to us for children with disabilities whom history has shown are mostly likely to be restrained, and may be more susceptible to injury as a result of their disability or less able to communicate distress due to complex communication needs.

Coalition for Children with Disabilities

Autism Society of Minnesota • The Arc Minnesota • Decoding Dyslexia Minnesota
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota • Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid/Minnesota Disability Law Center
Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance • Minnesota Council on Disability
Multicultural Autism Action Network • PACER Center
Prader-Willi Syndrome Association of Minnesota • Proof Alliance