

February 9, 2024

Rep. Cedrick Frazier
439 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Bonnie Westlin
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3403
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Laurie Pryor
Chair, House Education Policy Committee
571 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Steve Cwudzinski
Chair, Senate Education Policy Committee
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3207
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Rep. Frazier, Sen. Westlin, Rep. Pryor, and Sen. Cwudzinski:

Thank you very much for inviting our organizations to participate in the recent SRO bill work group. We agree that no school staff may engage in the restraints or other conduct prohibited under Minnesota Statutes 121A.58, including prone restraint, for the purpose of protecting school property.

During our discussion on Friday, February 2, we were assured that Minnesota law permits a school staff member to physically stop a student who is damaging school property – and that the provisions regarding reasonable force enacted in 2023 or amended in the proposed bill do not prohibit school employees from stopping property damage.

We write to confirm that our understanding is correct. If possible, please share statutory authority that supports this understanding.

If our understanding is not correct, we greatly appreciate clarification so that we can determine how to proceed during next week's committee meetings.

Sincerely,

Kirk Schneidawind, Executive Director of the Minnesota School Boards Association

Deb Henton, Executive Director of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators

Scott Croonquist, Executive Director of the Minnesota Association of Metropolitan School Districts

Bob Indihar, Executive Director of the Minnesota Rural Education Association

Roger Aronson, Attorney for the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals

