

Written Testimony - SF 3534

Dallas

LRC Youth Network

Minneapolis Resident

Hopkins High School

Dear ma'am/sir of the Committee,

My name is Dallas, I am a junior at Hopkins High School and I live in North Minneapolis. I am here today to advocate for the systematically suppressed voices of us -- the youth. In a place where we are supposed to learn, grow and thrive, several of my peers must worry about their safety in school. Prone restraints threaten the lives of our youth as we have seen the effects it has on people mentally, physically and emotionally. Several school based police officers and resource officers have stated concerns that this affects their job by restricting what they can do.

While I am thankful for the SRO's who work to build relationships with students and be positive mentors and advocates, beyond. Able to put a kid in a headlock,chokehold or kneel on their upper body is nowhere near necessary. "Comprehensive restraint on the head, neck and across most of the torso" is what was said in the sweeping education bill passed last year. It needs to stay this way. This state, city and its residents have been able to overcome and adjust to so much, why can't we adjust now. Undoing and removing the ban is simply not the answer. I can't express the amount of harm that could come out of this for black, brown and disabled students who will be disproportionately affected by House File #3489. Prone restraints are not an effective way to go about our children's education which, as said by Governor Walz, is supposed to "conjure the magic of promising beginnings and the grace of second chances". Will the use of prone restraints in schools affect his vision of education? Yea they will. Please listen and respect those who Will be affected by this the most, the students, the future.

Respect us and listen to us.

Thank you

Dallas