



March 21, 2024

Senator Heather Gustafson
Minnesota State Senate
3103 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Jamie Becker-Finn
Minnesota House of Representatives
559 Minnesota State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Gustafson and Representative Becker-Finn,

The Minneapolis Public Schools Board of Directors adopted the district's legislative agenda on January 9, 2024. The legislative agenda focuses primarily on education finance issues, however, the Board felt strongly that the district needs to speak up on the issue of gun violence and its impact on our students.

Minneapolis Public Schools supports House File 4300/Senate File 4312 and urges the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee to pass the bill. Safely storing firearms will save the lives of our state's young people.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released data on child and adolescent mortality showing deaths by firearms now outnumber deaths by motor vehicle crashes. More young people die by firearms than any other cause. Deaths by homicide have increased and deaths by suicide have increased.

With students reporting increased mental health concerns and increased suicidal ideation as reported on the Minnesota student survey, we cannot sit back and hope that guns in their homes are safely stored. We must act. The safe storage requirements in House File 4300/Senate File 4312 will keep guns out of the hands of children and will make our schools safer.

Thank you for your authorship of this important legislation.

Josh Downham
Director of Government Relations
Minneapolis Public Schools

CC: Senator Ron Latz, Chair, Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee