



September 12, 2025

Senate Gun Violence Prevention Working Group

Dear Chair Mohamed, Chair Latz, and Committee Members,

The Multicultural Autism Action Network is a non-profit organization serving families of children with disabilities in multicultural communities. The tragic violence that has shaken our community this summer—the murders of Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark; the shootings of Senator Hoffman and his wife, Yvette; the tragic shootings at Annunciation and Christo Rey, the tragic murder of Amir Atkins—have left lasting effects on our communities that will last a lifetime.

We are heart-broken by the effects of these tragedies on all community members, but are especially concerned about the effect on children with disabilities who are often left out of safety plans. It is our understanding that Minnesota's current [Comprehensive School Safety Guide](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF637&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0) recommends, but does not mandate, that schools have a plan for ensuring the safety of students with disabilities (https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF637&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0)

We are writing to you today to ask for your support of common sense gun legislation proposals including:

- A ban on assault style weapons
- A ban on high-capacity magazines
- Expanded background checks
- Expanded support for mental health services
- The creation of gun violence prevention programs
- Trauma screening and support
- Curriculum to teach dispute resolution, de-escalation, and collaborative problem solving in schools for all students and staff.
- Changes to the Comprehensive School Safety plan to mandate that school safety plans include students with disabilities.

We worry that mass casualty events have become such a common occurrence in our country and that we will become numb to the tragedy and will succumb to inaction. We ask ourselves if today will be the day we will finally prioritize our children's right to grow up over an adult's right to own assault weapons. We sincerely hope today will be that day.

Sincerely,
Fatima Molas
Delia Samuel
Rufo Jiru
Maren Christenson Hofer

www.maanmn.org