



March 3, 2021

The Honorable Members of the Minnesota State Legislature
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN

Regarding: School Bus Stop Arm Camera Legislation

Dear Senator/Representative:

The Minnesota Child Care Association (MCCA) is a statewide organization representing licensed child care centers throughout Minnesota. MCCA works to educate policy makers and elected officials on the important role licensed child care centers play in providing quality early learning opportunities for families.

On behalf of MCCA, I am writing to you today to address a life-threatening scenario our students face each day at bus stops across the state. The increased incidence of rushed motorists unlawfully passing a school bus while the stop-arm is extended is putting our children's lives in danger.

The current enforcement solution simply is woefully inadequate. With the high volume of buses that are running during a normal school day, our law enforcement officers cannot be at every bus stop, in every city each morning and afternoon. They need community support. They need help keeping our children safe.

With the evidence of a stop-arm violation captured on camera, law enforcement can issue a citation to the driver. As more stop-arm cameras are installed on buses, we will see more citations issued and a change in behavior by drivers and eventually the number of stop-arm violations will be significantly diminished while simultaneously increasing the safety of our children.

Thankfully, as policy leaders you have the opportunity to finally address this public safety concern. There is a bill currently being heard in the Minnesota legislature, Senate File 584, authored by Senator Scott Newman and House File 2172 authored by Representative Wolgamott that allows bus drivers to assist our local law enforcement with increased enforcement of school bus stop-arm violations.

In 2020, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) called on states to combat school bus stop-arm violations by enacting laws enabling local jurisdictions to install cameras on stop-arms, and to issue citations to violators who broke the law. The bill before the Minnesota Legislature will address this NTSB warning and will save the lives of our children.

22 other states have passed legislation empowering local jurisdictions to stop violators at our bus stops. We believe it is time for Minnesota to join these other states on behalf of our children.

We believe adoption of this legislation will save precious lives and urge your support of the bill.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership on behalf of our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Dunkley", is written over a white background.

Chad Dunkley
President, MN Child Care Association
1000 Westgate Drive, Suite 252
St. Paul, MN 55114