



April 7, 2026

The Honorable Representatives Paul Novotny and Kelly Moller  
Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Co-Chairs Novotny and Moller, Co-Vice Chairs Feist and Witte, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Shakopee Chamber of Commerce to express support for HF3753, a bill that will establish a school safety threat assessment pilot project and provide necessary appropriations.

The most important part of this legislation is that the solution proactively and discreetly scans for seen and unseen weapons outside of school buildings. Advance notice of threats will provide law enforcement and school officials with critical response time in situations where every second counts.

As the Shakopee Chamber of Commerce, we understand that safe schools are not just a public safety issue — they are an economic imperative. Scott County is one of Minnesota's fastest-growing counties, ranking 10th in population growth from 2020 to 2024, with over 157,000 residents and a notably young population. More than one-third of Scott County residents — approximately 34.5% - are under the age of 24, representing the very students and future workforce that this legislation is designed to protect.

The Shakopee Chamber serves as the convening organization for the Academies of Shakopee at Shakopee High School, a career pathway program that directly connects local employers with students to build our regional workforce pipeline. The success of that program — and others like it across Minnesota — depends on students and families feeling safe and secure in their school buildings every single day. When schools are unsafe, students disengage, employers lose confidence in workforce development programs, and communities suffer long-term economic consequences.

The broader Twin Cities regional labor market, of which Scott County is a part, posted over 66,000 job vacancies in 2024. Filling those jobs depends on a strong, locally educated talent pipeline. Businesses choose to locate and invest in communities where families want to live — and families want to live where children are safe. Supporting proactive, technology-forward school safety solutions like those proposed in this legislation is an investment not just in our students, but in the long-term economic vitality of our region.

Thank you for your support of HF3753. We look forward to working alongside the Legislature and community partners to build safer schools across Minnesota where students can learn and thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Zunker", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tim Zunker  
President  
Shakopee Chamber of Commerce