



Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Association

March 2, 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 Emergency Medical Services Association (MEMSA) is a vital professional association representing people in Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Whether our members are working on an ambulance, rescue squad, first responder squad, in a hospital, or industry, as a law enforcement officer, or with a fire department, we are uniquely aware of the life and death consequences of citizens ignoring public safety laws. MEMSA would like to lend its unequivocal support to SF 584 authored by Senator Newman, and Representative Wolgamott in the House of Representatives, the current legislation being proposed to empower stop-arm cameras to be installed on Minnesota school busses. As emergency medical providers we strive each day to keep our fellow citizens safe, and help them recover as quickly as possible when they are injured. Each day as our kids travel from their homes to their bus stop, they are in danger from motorists unlawfully passing school buses while the stop-arm is extended. There are over 12,000 school buses per day on our roads and streets. It is estimated that there are over 100,000 violations per year of this state law, with only a fraction of offenders being caught and prosecuted. We believe stop arm cameras are a critical tool to help significantly reduce the number of stop arm violations. In Minnesota, law enforcement can issue citations to drivers who pass a stopped school bus when the bus driver can provide a description of the vehicle. Stop arm cameras give bus drivers the resource to identify a vehicle that has illegally passed a stopped school bus. It is our sincere hope that as more stop arm cameras are installed on buses, we will see more enforceable citations issued, and there will undoubtedly be a significant reduction in the number of occurrences of drivers passing stopped school buses. As Minnesota's professional association representing people in EMS, anything that helps to prevent the necessity of our members being first responders to the scene of a tragedy involving a child is critical public policy. We believe the adoption of this legislation will not only deter continuing offenses in the long run, but more importantly, will save the lives of our state and country's future. It is because of the aforementioned reasons, we ask for your vote on SF 584. Thank you for your leadership on this critical public safety threat.

Stanley Stocker President - Minnesota Emergency Medical Service Association