

March 11, 2025

Representative Max Rymer  
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Mark Koran  
2203 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Rymer and Senator Koran,  
As education organizations representing all 332 school districts across the state, we write to express our concerns regarding House File 16 and Senate File 643.

Minnesota has a long history of protecting parents' rights as well as the education data of children. The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and more specifically the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA) provide an essential framework for the protection of student and parent data.

H.F. 16/S.F. 643 not only weakens those protections, it has the potential to cause harm – both accidental and intentional.

Section 1 of the bill gives any school employee legal authority to share students' personally identifiable data. This provision erases essential protections. In fact, school officials would have little or no power to limit indiscriminate data sharing among employees who traditionally would not be allowed access to this protected data.

The bill has a significant potential for harm given the lack of protections for students and parents in the event of circulating false or inaccurate data. Data could be inaccurately characterized simply on an employee's perception of a student's race or ethnicity. This should not be allowed to happen.

We encourage the committee to reject the bill and maintain parents' rights over their childrens' data.

Thank you,

Minnesota School Boards Association  
Minnesota Association of School Administrators  
Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals  
Association of Minnesota Elementary School Principals  
Association of Metropolitan School Districts  
Minneapolis Public Schools  
St. Paul Public Schools

