



March 3, 2020

Rep. Jennifer Schultz (DFL) District: 07A
473 State Office Building *
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Schultz,

We, neighbors and parents of students at Congdon Park Elementary School in Duluth, MN, write in support of HF 3498. Our school has worked for many years to undertake a wide variety of strategies (education, encouragement activities, redesigning our drop off/pick up areas, separating bus drop off and more) to make walking and bicycling to school safer, and more convenient for students and families. We know that active bodies make for active minds, and HF 3498's efforts to reduce speed limits in school zones is more one thing that can help encourage more families to make the decision to walk or bike to school.

Congdon Park Elementary is located in a very dense residential area, and most days see at least 10% of the student body (100 students) walking or biking to school. Our school is also unique in our community in that it is located on a major commuter route for people who work in downtown Duluth. Our school day begins at 7:45am, and there is a lot of congestion in our school zone due to motorists going to work, families who decide to drive their students to school, and school buses. Amongst this congestion, we have many students walking to school. Our school campus encompasses a city block, and only one of the four intersections along our school zone has a controlled intersection. That intersection is pictured above, at Superior Street and Hawthorne Rd. Motorists in our school area often focus on the stoplight, and we have noticed that many speed up to try to "make it through the green light". The school is also located in a natural depression, so motorists from both directions find themselves going downhill. With modern vehicle sizes, pedestrian/automobile encounters, even when not at high speeds, can be fatal. And we have many small people making their way to school each day on foot or on bicycle. For these reasons, we strongly support HF 3498. Reducing speed limits in school zones will give motorists more time to see the whole picture, will give pedestrians more time to make safe passage at intersections, and can be one more tool for our local law enforcement in developing safer areas around our school, and around all schools statewide.

Thank you for authoring this important piece of legislation. Please feel free to contact us to further showcase our support for this bill.

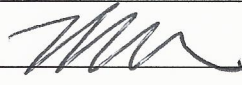
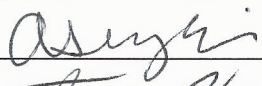
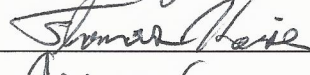

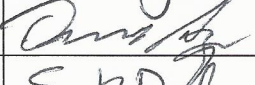
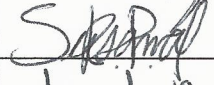
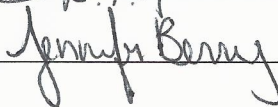
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