



Chairman Fue Lee  
House Capital Investment Committee  
485 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairman Lee,

On behalf of SAVE-Suicide Awareness Voices of Education, [www.save.org](http://www.save.org), I wish to applaud you and your colleagues for your leadership and work in forging a bonding bill that addresses a number of critical and urgent Minnesota needs. **There is no more urgent need than that which is contained within the current \$64 million in HEAPR funds that are in the House and Senate version of the bonding bill for the University of Minnesota.**

A portion of these funds will be used to address a serious life safety issue on the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus which is the Washington Avenue Bridge. This bridge has become one of the most dangerous public structures as it relates to suicidal ideation and suicide. It is imperative that suicide prevention barriers and deterrents be added to this bridge to save lives.

Suicide barriers and deterrents have been provided to disrupt suicidal impulsivity and result in saving lives and preventing future suicides. SAVE, along with a group of family and friends of several individuals who have died by suicide associated with this public structure, have formed Kayla's HOPE to honor the memory of Kayla Gaebel who died by suicide. To honor her memory is to ensure that suicide prevention barriers and deterrents are installed on this bridge as quickly as possible.

We hope you and members of the House Capital Investment Committee, along with your colleagues in the Minnesota Senate, will reach agreement that will keep funding for the University of Minnesota's HEAPR request at current levels, and ensure that language directing the installation of suicide prevention barriers and deterrents remains intact.

On behalf of SAVE and those we serve and seek to serve thank you for your service and leadership.

Sincerely,

Erich Mische, Executive Director  
SAVE