

Dear Members of the Public Safety finance/policy committee,

I am writing **in support of keeping the ban** on prone holds and breath-impacting restraints on children in Minnesota schools. I fully support these prohibitions for school resource and police officers remaining in statute as approved by the legislature last year.

Such restraints are already prohibited in many places in many contexts, including in Minnesota prisons and schools:

1. New York City law forbids police from using such restraints--a law that has been upheld by the New York Court of appeals in an *unanimous* decision just this past fall
2. In the year following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis by a police officer using such a restraint, 24 states restricted or banned the use of such restraints
3. The Minnesota legislature bans correctional officers from using such restraints on inmates
4. Prone restraints have been prohibited in Minnesota schools against students with disabilities since 2015

There is an abundance of evidence and prior legislation that demonstrates clearly that prone holds and breath-impacting restraints have no place in Minnesota schools. Schools are places where young people should feel safe and supported, and not put in danger by the adults in the building.

Thank you,  
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1. <https://apnews.com/article/police-new-york-city-chokeholds-breathing-b35a07662eb1be873b77789346142056>
2. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/15/us/police-accountability-george-floyd/index.html>
3. <https://minnesotareformer.com/2023/09/22/prone-restraint-is-banned-in-minnesota-prisons-yet-controversy-continues-about-a-ban-in-schools/>
4. <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/restr/PhyHold/>