March 11, 2021

The Honorable Members of the Minnesota State Legislature
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Regarding: School Bus Stop Arm Camera Legislation

Dear Senator/Representative:

The Minnesota Sheriffs Association, representing the 87 elected Sheriffs of the great State of Minnesota, is writing to you today to offer our support of Senate File 584, authored by Senator Scott Newman, as well as Representative Wolgamott in the House of Representatives, allowing for stop-arm cameras to be installed on Minnesota school buses.

Far too many Minnesota motorists are unlawfully passing school buses while the stop-arm is extended. This is a life-threatening scenario to the safety of our children as they commute to and from their school. In a normal school day, there are over 12,000 school buses on our streets. It is estimated that there are over 100,000 violations of this law per year, with only a fraction of offenders being ticketed. As fellow public servants, dedicated to the safety of all Minnesotans, we ask that you help us address this life-threatening public safety offense. Our children's lives depend on our action.

In 2020, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) called on states to combat school bus stop-arm violations by enacting laws providing local jurisdictions the authority to install cameras on stop-arms, and to issue citations to violators caught on camera. We believe allowing for this technology would be a tremendous help in enforcing the existing law and could lead to a significant reduction in stop arm violations. This will ensure the safety of Minnesota students.

We believe adoption of this legislation will save lives, and we ask for your support for SF 584 to help make our streets safer for our kids.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

William M. Hutton
Executive Director