



## Minnesota House of Representatives

May 11, 2020  
VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Minnesota Department of Education  
Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker  
1500 MN-36  
Roseville, MN 55113

Dear Commissioner Ricker,

It is incredibly disappointing the administration took this unilateral "one-size-hurts-all" action with little or no warning, and apparently no flexibility for schools capable of holding their ceremonies safely. This guidance is causing a tremendous amount of frustration. Please rescind your Graduation Celebration Guidelines and accept the recommendations and plans from local school leaders and parents instead.

Your approach ignores the thoughtful deliberations and plans already in place with local school leaders. This is the time for transparent dialogue not stealing milestones from thousands of Minnesota graduates and their families.

The Governor's peacetime emergency powers expire on May 13, and the Stay at Home order ends at midnight on May 17. This guidance conflicts with current executive orders and gives the impression that the department is already aware of an extension or plans unilateral decision-making if either the state of emergency or stay at home order expire as currently scheduled.

Minnesota school leaders know how to protect their students and families. Furthermore, we do not need slick communication graphics, we need open dialog and collaboration so we can leverage all of the possibilities and good ideas. For example, a couple communities are planning on using their drive-in movie theater as a venue and smaller schools have plenty of spacing in their football fields other schools have considered ways to hold multiple celebrations to comply with social distancing.

We urge the department to rescind these guidelines and trust local officials who can develop and implement common-sense plans consistent with social distance guidelines. AND, here is to throwing your cap in celebration!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron Kresha".

Ron Kresha  
State Representative

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Minority Leader Kurt Daudt



Deputy Minority Leader Anne Neu



Representative Tony Albright



Representative Paul Anderson



Representative Jeff Backer



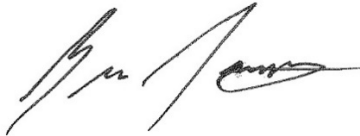
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Representative Greg Davids



Representative Lisa Demuth



Representative Bob Dettmer



Representative Sondra Erickson



Representative Dan Fabian



Representative Mary Franson



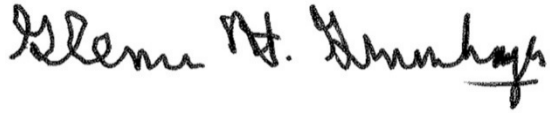
Representative Pat Garofalo



Representative Steve Green



Representative Matt Grossell



Representative Glenn Gruenhagen



Representative Bob Gunther



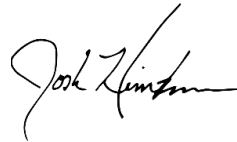
Representative Barb Haley



Representative Rod Hamilton



Representative John Heinrich



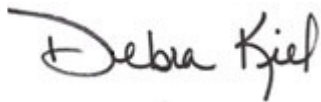
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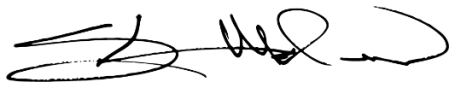
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Representative Joe McDonald



Representative Shane Mekeland



Representative Jim Nash



Representative Nathan Nelson



Representative Bud Nornes



Representative Paul Novotny



Representative Tim O'Driscoll



Representative Marion O'Neill



Representative John Petersburg



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Representative John Poston



Representative Duane Quam



Representative Kristin Robbins



Representative Linda Runbeck



Representative Joe Schomacker



Representative Chris Suedzinski

Representative Peggy Scott

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Representative Chris Swedzinski

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Swedzinski", with a cursive script.

Representative Tama Theis

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Representative Paul Torkelson

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Representative Dean Urdahl

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Representative Bob Vogel

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Representative Nolan West