



■ *Safer schools, safer kids...* ■

August 17, 2023

Office of Governor Walz
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

TO: Governor Tim Walz

CC: Keith Ellison, Attorney General Senator Ron Latz, Chair of Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee Senator Warren Limmer, Minority Lead of Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee Representative Kelly Moller, Chair of House Public Safety Finance and Policy Representative Paul Novotny, Minority Lead of House Public Safety Finance and Policy Commissioner Bob Jacobson, Minnesota Department of Public Safety Commissioner Wille Jett, Minnesota Department of Education

Re: New Law impacting School Resource Officers; Mn Stat. 121A.58 and 121A.582

Dear Governor Walz,

We at the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) have concerns regarding two provisions within the education bill that were recently passed. These concerns pertain to provisions in Minnesota Statute 121A, which governs student rights, responsibilities, and behavior. The effects of these changes to sections 121A.58 and 121A.582 are to: (1) limit the use of force toward pupils to situations where it is necessary to prevent bodily harm or death; (2) prohibit the use of prone restraint; and (3) prohibit the use of compressive restraint on the head, neck, and across most of the torso.

NASRO, the world's leader in school-based police training, is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1991 for school-based law enforcement officers, school administrators, and school security and/or safety professionals who work as partners to protect schools and their students, faculty, and staff members. NASRO takes pride in the curriculum and training that a NASRO trained SRO must adhere to. SROs are trained on de-escalation skills but often times the only way to de-escalate a situation is to restrain or remove a student from a situation. These provisions that have been passed into law can unfortunately cause a dangerous situation when an SRO who is a sworn law enforcement officer can-not take action to safely restrain a

student to prevent bodily harm or death. By definition, a school resource officer (SRO) is a carefully selected, specifically trained, and properly equipped law enforcement officer with sworn authority, trained in school-based law enforcement and crisis response and assigned by an employing law enforcement agency to work collaboratively with one or more schools using community-oriented policing concepts. Within this new law, an SRO will be unable to take action. Instead, precious moments will be spent waiting for a law enforcement officer who is not employed with the school to respond and restrain a student if necessary. Often responding officers do not have the same level of training in proper restraint of children. We know from previous tragic situations every moment counts when protecting the lives of innocent students, faculty and staff.

It is for these very reasons that we ask you to consider a revision of this law and allow School Resource Officers the ability to keep children and schools a safer place.

Sincerely,



Mo Canady
NASRO Executive Director



Rudy Perez
NASRO President