



MN ASSOCIATION OF
CHARTER SCHOOLS

Unleashing education from convention

March 10, 2021

TO: Members of the House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee

RE: Legislation to Allow Stop-Arm Cameras on School Buses

The Minnesota Association of Charter Schools is a membership organization that advocates for charter school policy issues, supports charter school innovation, quality, and accountability, and facilitates cooperation in Minnesota's charter school community to promote equitable opportunities and excellence in education for students.

The Minnesota Association of Charter Schools supports legislation to allow for stop-arm cameras to be installed on Minnesota school buses.

Minnesota motorists who unlawfully pass a school bus while the stop-arm is extended pose a significant threat to the safety of Minnesota's students. In normal times, there are over 12,000 school buses on our roads and streets per day. It is estimated that there are over 100,000 violations per year of this state law, with only a fraction of offenders being caught and ticketed.

In 2020, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) called on states to take action to curb school bus stop-arm violations by enacting laws to allow installation of cameras on stop-arms, and to issue citations to violators caught on camera. Allowing this technology will greatly enhance existing law enforcement efforts to ensure the safety of Minnesota's students.

On behalf of the over 65,000 students who attend Minnesota's 173 chartered public schools, we urge you to support legislation to allow cameras on stop-arms, and fund these cameras through the fines paid by violators. This will send a strong message to all motorists that the safety of our children is paramount.

Eugene Piccolo
Executive Director