



Office of the Ramsey County Sheriff
Bob Fletcher, Sheriff



Office of the Hennepin County Sheriff
David Hutchinson, Sheriff

March 2, 2021

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

Regarding: School Bus Stop Arm Camera Legislation

Dear Senators and Representatives:

We are writing to you today to offer our strong support for Senate File 584, authorizing stop-arm cameras to be installed on Minnesota school buses. Simply stated, the current situation endangers the lives and safety of children as they commute to and from schools.

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety conducts an annual survey in which school bus drivers are asked to report stop-arm violations throughout the course of one day. In 2019, 2,376 drivers reported 625 violations. Over the course of a full school-year, this amounts to more than 106,000 stop-arm violations, of which only a small fraction are prosecuted. Simply put, thousands of children are in danger each and every time they travel to their school.

Thankfully, as policy leaders you have the opportunity to finally address this critical public safety issue during this legislative session. Senate File 584, authored by Senator Scott Newman, and House File 2172 authored by Representative Wolgamott provides legislators a pathway to begin to resolve this growing health and safety issue for our children.

In 2020, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) called on states to combat school bus stop-arm violations by enacting laws enabling local jurisdictions to install cameras on stop-arms, and to issue citations to violators caught on camera. This legislation does just that, and most importantly will safeguard the lives of children. Over 20 other states have already passed legislation empowering local jurisdictions to stop violators at our bus stops. We believe it is time for Minnesota to join the leaders who have already addressed this critical public safety concern.

We believe this legislation will save precious lives, and urge your support of Senate File 584 and House File 2172.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership on behalf of our children.

Bob Fletcher
Ramsey County Sheriff

David Hutchinson
Hennepin County Sheriff