



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 3, 2018

The Honorable Kurt Daudt
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Room 463
State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Paul Gazelka
Senate Majority Leader
Room 3113
Minnesota Senate Building,
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Daudt and Leader Gazelka:

On March 7, following the tragic school shooting in Parkland, Florida, I released my proposal for the Safe and Secure Schools Act, and urged Legislative Leaders and Committee Chairs to work quickly to pass commonsense legislation that will protect Minnesota students, reduce gun violence, and save lives. At the time, media reports counted at least 21 threats made against Minnesota schools since the Parkland shooting. Tragically, there have been at least seven more since then. Yet, more than eight weeks later, Minnesotans are still awaiting final legislative action on policies that would make our schools safer.

In an attempt to expedite progress on this critical matter, my Administration submitted my Safe and Secure Schools Act in stand-alone bill form, introduced in the House by Representative Jenifer Loon and in the Senate by Senator Eric Pratt. My proposal contains measures that would enable schools to make critical safety improvements to school facilities or hire additional student support staff. It further enables schools to provide mental health services to students who need additional support and strengthens red flag laws to help school districts and charter schools identify and assist students who exhibit warning signs of dangerous behavior.

While I am pleased to see the House and Senate have passed many of these commonsense proposals, it is extremely problematic that they are being carried in your Omnibus Bills, which contain a myriad of controversial and unacceptable provisions that I have promised I will veto, including cuts to agencies and numerous other problematic policy provisions.

I have asked you again and again to send these essential school safety provisions in a stand-alone bill; yet my requests have been ignored. You are well aware that including these essential school safety provisions in a bill destined for a veto puts these important policies at great risk of not becoming law this year. That would be irresponsible. We are very close to an agreement on these important issues, and with 18 days remaining this Legislative Session, I see no reason why we should not be able to reach consensus with time to spare.

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I strongly urge you not to waste another day to move stand-alone school safety legislation forward and to my desk for signature. Our students, teachers, and families expect and deserve nothing less. Commissioner Cassellius and my staff stand ready to work with you to expedite this important work, so that all of Minnesota's schoolchildren are assured safe and secure classrooms and schools.

Sincerely,



Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: Senator Thomas Bakk, Minority Leader
Representative Melissa Hortman, Minority Leader
Senator Eric Pratt
Senator Carla J. Nelson
Representative Jenifer Loon