



*An Initiative of Minnesota Alliance With Youth*

Dear Senator Little,

Thank you for presenting your bill, HF 960, to the Minnesota Youth Council Committee on March 27, 2018. We are also grateful to hear from other testifiers that include Minnesota Department of Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius and Edina High School student Arjun Maheshwari. We appreciate your push for political reform on a very pressing issue. Background checks on guns are a very popular idea, especially among many members of the Minnesota Youth Council, and we were appreciative of the opportunity to learn more and discuss the various perspectives on this issue.

Members of the Minnesota Youth Council voted in support of this bill 18-5. Despite our support for your measure, many members have criticized how this bill might be inefficient. Along the lines of one of the testifiers, Edina student Arjun Maheshwari, drew specific attention to how this bill allows many loopholes to remain in our system of background checks, and believes that the bill should be amended to deny any gun sales to those who have had no conducted background check.

Another major concern is the ambiguity we've seen throughout the bill. The language used to explain what qualifies as a background check is loose but we're confident that it will be adjusted in some form.

On March 27th, we released the Minnesota Youth Council's [Statement on School Safety](#). This issue is of utmost importance to not only the Council, but by many students around the state and nation and we hope you continue to champion the safety and well being of young people, especially in schools and other public places.

We also want to acknowledge your work with young people on this legislation. We believe solutions to some of society's most pressing problems will come from young people, and appreciate your efforts to include and uplift youth voice. We encourage all elected officials to take this philosophy into account regarding future legislation. Your concern for our state's safety is admirable and we hope to see you take our suggestions into account. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

The Minnesota Youth Council Committee