



*An Initiative of Minnesota Alliance With Youth*

Dear Representative Richardson, Ms. Maye-Quade, Representative Johnson, and Ms. Suchomel,

Thank you for attending the Minnesota Youth Council Committee hearing at Youth Day at the Capitol on February 27, 2019. We appreciate you taking time to present and testify on HF 09, regarding access to firearms and the ability of law enforcement and family members to petition the possession of firearms by potentially dangerous users. We value the contributions of all testimonies, as each added a unique perspective to the issue.

We greatly appreciate your attention to an issue that is important to MYCC members and the youth of Minnesota. As outlined in our 2019 Legislative Platform, the Minnesota Youth Council is committed to making schools safer for all students. However, while we think that the red-flag bill makes great strides in the right direction, we do not see this as a finite solution. In order to retain the maximum level of effectiveness, more must be done to control the illegal market for guns, something which this bill is not able to do. We also see potential problems in that the procedures outlined in the bill may take too long to disarm a potentially violent person, and not limit access to guns for necessary periods of time, but nevertheless, the bill provides for a safer future than the status quo.

The issue of gun violence is a politically divisive one, but the MYCC as a nonpartisan organization believes that this bill would be beneficial to ensure and create a safer Minnesota for all students and citizens. Additionally, the council sees a vigorous fact-based debate as essential to healthy discussion, especially concerning public policy, and we hope that the conversation surrounding this bill is reflective of that necessity.

Thank you for taking the time to present this bill to the Minnesota Youth Council Committee. We appreciate your support towards the safety of youth in Minnesota, as it is an extremely pressing issue affecting the state. We look forward to hearing more on this bill and continuing to support it.

Sincerely,

Minnesota Youth Council