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Memorandum

August 19, 2019

TO: Interim Committee on School Safety

FROM: Aaron Carpenter, Fiscal Analyst, 303-866-4918

SUBJECT: Public Comments for Committee on School Safety Meeting: August 20, 2019

Summary

This memorandum provides a general overview of the public comments received from the online public comment form at: <http://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS/cslFrontPages.nsf/SS.xsp>. The individual comments are attached to this memorandum.

Overview of Public Comments

From July 10, 2019, to August 19, 2019, the online public comment form received 97 public comments. Since the comment form was activated, the committee has received a total of 237 unique comments.

Organizations

In this round of comments, 12 organizations were represented, with ten new organizations that were not represented in the last round. Table 1 lists each organization and the number of comments submitted by individuals indicating that they represent the organization between July 10 and August 19. Table 2 shows the total number of comments submitted by each organization since June 21, 2019.

Table 1
Organizations Represented in Public Comments: July 10 to August 19, 2019

Organization	Number of Comments
Moms Demand Action	10
Adams 12 Five Star Schools	1
American Muslim Gun Owners Association	1
Arapahoe High School Community Coalition	1
Aurora Public Schools	1
Colorado Education Association	1
Malley Drive Elementary	1
MJ Galleries	1
Northern Colorado Retired Education Association	1
Silver Creek High School Education Foundation	1
Tri-County Health Department	1
University of Denver	1

Table 2
Total Number of Organizations Represented

Organization	Total Number of Comments
Moms Demand Action	21
Adams 12 Five Star Schools	2
American Muslim Gun Owners Association	1
Anti-Defamation League	1
Arapahoe High School Community Coalition	1
Aurora Public Schools	1
Brainwave Mental Health Colorado	1
Catalively	1
Colorado Education Association	1
Colorado Springs School District 11	1
George Washington Patriot Pairs Mentoring	1
Green Party of Colorado	1
Johnson Controls Security Solutions	1
Las Estrellas	1
Limon Public Schools School Board and Colorado Association of School Boards	1
Malley Drive Elementary	1
Mental Health Colorado	1
Mental Health First Aid Colorado and Behavioral Healthcare Council	1
MJ Galleries	1
Northern Colorado Retired Education Association	1
Sandy Hook Promise	1
Second Wind Fund	1
Silver Creek High School Education Foundation	1
Tri-County Health Department	1
Unite North Metro Denver	1
University of Denver	1

Categories

Individuals who submitted a public comment were asked to identify themselves as a parent, student, educator/school employee, family member, community member, or other. Table 3 lists the number of times each category was identified in the current comment period, and the total number of responses received.

Table 3
Categories Represented in Public Comments

Categories	Number of Responses (July 10 to August 19, 2019)	Total Number of Responses
Parent	33	87
Community Member	16	56
Educator/School Employee	23	46
Other	8	17
Student	13	17
Family Member	3	10
Blank	1	4

Topics

Finally, this memorandum sorts each comment into certain topics. These topics, from the most comments to the least, include firearms, mental health, training, school resource officers (SRO) or other security personnel, general comments, safety procedures or drills, school culture and environment, secure buildings, school funding, and other comments. Please note that one comment may have multiple topics so the total number of responses will not match the total number of responses received. In addition, each topic does not indicate if the individual supported or disagreed with the proposal. More descriptions on each topic area follow below.

Firearms. This topic area includes comments that touch on firearms in general and firearms in schools. Comments include things like gun laws in general, guns in schools, and arming teachers.

Mental Health. This topic area includes comments that touch on mental health services or other health needs. This area includes things like increasing access to mental health, putting more mental health professionals or social workers in schools, and general mental health concerns.

Trainings. This topic area includes comments that touch on increasing training for school personnel and students. This can be training on recognizing violent behaviors, mental health training, risk assessments, or training on emergency situations.

SROs/Security Personnel. This topic area includes comments that concern SROs or security personnel in general in schools.

General. This topic area focuses on comments that talk about the big picture. Comments include things like general concern on school safety, suggestions on who the committee should reach out to, and other general comments about the committee.

Safety Procedures/Drills. This topic area includes comments that touch on a school’s safety procedure or drills. It also touches on how schools should communicate with parents and with law enforcement agencies.

School Culture. This topic area includes comments that concern a school’s culture and includes comments about bullying. This topic area also includes comments on how schools should handle student discipline.

Secure Buildings. This topic area includes comments that touch on the physical security at a school. This includes comments about metal detectors, security cameras, and securing entrances, to name a few.

School Funding. This topic area includes comments that touch on funding for schools.

Other. This topic area includes comments that do not fit in other categories, including vaccinations for kids and environmental regulations.

**Table 4
Topics Represented in Public Comments**

Topics	Number of Responses (July 10 to August 19, 2019)	Total Number of Responses
Firearms	48	107
Mental Health	33	76
Trainings	14	39
SRO/Security Personnel	8	30
General	8	27
No Comment	16	25
Safety Procedures/Drills	10	25
School Culture	12	23
Secure Buildings	10	22
School Funding	11	14
Other	4	10