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Memorandum

July 10, 2019

TO: Interim Committee on School Safety

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

SUBJECT: Public Comments for Committee on School Safety Meeting: July 11, 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 June 21, 2019, to July 10, 2019, the online public comment form received 140 public comments from 45 unique places in the state.

Organizations

Of those who commented, 16 organizations were represented. Table 1 lists each organization and the number of comments submitted by individuals indicating that they represent the organization.

**Table 1
Organizations Represented in Public Comments**

Organization	Number of Comments
Moms Demand Action	11
Adams 12 Five Star Schools	1
Anti-Defamation League	1
Brainwave Mental Health Colorado	1
Catalively	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 CASB BOD	1
Mental Health Colorado	1
Mental Health First Aid Colorado and Behavioral Healthcare Council	1
Sandy Hook Promise	1
Second Wind Fund	1
Unite North Metro 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 2 lists the number of times each category was identified.

**Table 2
Categories Represented in Public Comments**

Categories	Number of Responses
Parent	54
Community Member	40
Educator/School Employee	23
Other	9
Family Member	7
Student	4
Blank	3

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, secure buildings, school culture and environment, other comments, and school funding. 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.

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 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.

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

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

Table 3
Topics Represented in Public Comments

Topics	Number of Responses
Firearms	59
Mental Health	43
Trainings	25
SRO/Security Personnel	22
General	19
Safety Procedures/Drills	15
Secure Buildings	12
School Culture	11
No Comment	9
Other	6
School Funding	3