



Colorado Association of
Chiefs of Police



August 25, 2022

Denver Public Schools Board of Education
Emily Griffith Campus
1860 Lincoln Street
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Denver School Board members,

On behalf of the members of the undersigned organizations, we would like to express our concern about the video shown to Denver South High School students on Tuesday.

We believe that it's important for elected officials, including school board members, to set a positive tone in their communities toward law enforcement. The students and families in Denver Public Schools look to school board members, Superintendent Marrero and school principals for leadership on many issues—including the safety of students and educators. Condoning this type of inflammatory and inaccurate information about law enforcement furthers negative perceptions of law enforcement and hurts our efforts to build trusting relationships within the communities we serve, including schools and student populations.

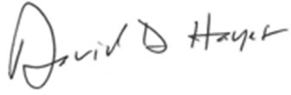
More importantly, the message of this video and similar rhetoric that teaches students not to trust first responders has dangerous consequences. Discouraging students from calling the police in situations that have a high probability of violence and telling them to handle it themselves is irresponsible. Suggesting that police officers are trained to treat people of color and members of the disabled and LGBTQ communities as perpetrators is false and offensive.

We believe the DPS school board should immediately communicate to families and students in the district accurate information about handling a potentially violent situation and how to best engage with law enforcement in these circumstances.

Moving forward, our organizations stand ready to work with the Denver Public Schools district to improve the relationship between students, educators and law enforcement. The need for progress exists in every system that our communities depend on—including both criminal justice and our public schools. We must work together constructively to identify and implement solutions. It's critical for the safety of our communities that we move beyond this type of dangerous

misinformation to build positive relationships and provide accurate safety information to our children.

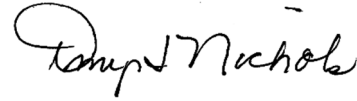
Sincerely,



Dave Hayes
President
Colorado Association of
Chiefs of Police



Stephen Schulz
President
Colorado FOP



Amy J. Nichols
Executive Director
County Sheriffs of Colorado



Nikki Thomas
Executive Director
Colorado Police
Protective Association



Tyson Worrell
President
Denver Police
Protective Association