

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

February 1, 2023

Public Safety Finance and Policy

509 State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairman Moller:

I am writing to you regarding House File 601 (HF 601) and the National Rifle Association's (NRA) position on this piece of legislation. I would like to express our strong opposition to HF 601.

The NRA has a number of concerns regarding some of the policies set forth in the bill. The NRA believes that law abiding gun owners should not be further victimized after they have a firearm stolen from them.

HF 601 seeks to criminalize the failure to report a lost or stolen firearm within 48 hours from the time a person knew or should have known of the loss or theft. The bill does not define what "should have known" means, which will have to be interpreted by the courts, thus leaving a lot of uncertainty in the law.

Nowhere else in the law is there an obligation to report a lost or stolen item. Gun owners are being unfairly singled out and potentially turned into criminals for forgetting to file a report or not doing it within the prescribed timeframe.

Finally, this bill imposes criminal penalties for a violation. This bill will turn a law abiding gun owner, who was victimized by a criminal, into a criminal themselves if they forget to file a report.

For these reasons, and several others, the NRA is opposed to the passage of HB 601.

Sincerely,

Brian Gosch

Minnesota State Director