

2/19/2026

**House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,**

Dear House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee:

My name is Annie Feste, and I am the parent of a second grader and an eighth grader at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis. The past six months have been a blur, a living nightmare no family should ever endure.

We are grieving the loss of Harper and Fletcher. We are grieving the loss of our children's innocence. And we are living with fear, fear of the long term impact this trauma will have on our children, on our family, and on the community we love.

On August 27th, my children woke up excited. It was the third day of a new school year. That morning, they sat at Mass with their newly assigned buddies. My daughter turned around and stuck her tongue out at her big brother as they were filing into church. They smiled at each other. They were safe. They were happy. They were just kids.

My son remembers walking to church with his friend and their two little buddies. His first grade buddy was worried because he had accidentally worn Crocs and didn't think he'd be able to run fast at gym. My son told him, "Put them in sport mode. You'll run fast."

Minutes later, they were running for their lives. In the chaos, his little buddy's Crocs, the very shoes they had joked about, became his only focus. A small, desperate distraction from the unthinkable: a gravely injured child lying by them, blood everywhere.

They dove under pews. They clung to each other in terror. The friend my son walked in with was shot.

When the shooting began, my son happened to be bent over reaching for a book down the pew. By chance, or miracle, his little buddy followed him. After returning to the church and seeing the bullet scars from that day, we know they survived by inches. My son remembers the sound of the gun firing. He remembers the thud. He remembers the screams. He grabbed his tiny buddy's hand and dove under a pew across the aisle. He said he just knew they couldn't stay where they were.

He counted the seconds of gunshots. He can describe the rapid firing and the sound of bullets flying over his head.

Meanwhile, our daughter and her classmates ran to the preschool room in the church basement. They tried to barricade the door with whatever they could find, even juice boxes. During the chaos, we were later told she may have fainted. Her therapist explained it was her body's trauma response.

When the children were being lined up for reunification, our daughter became separated and ran out of the building. A friend saw her running through the parking lot and later told us she had never seen such pure terror on anyone's face.

In the gym, my son searched frantically for his sister, who was unaccounted for. He feared the worst.

We live close to the school. I arrived 13 minutes after the shooting ended. I received confirmation that our son was safe while driving there. Seven agonizing minutes after arriving, I learned our daughter had survived too.

When we were reunited, our children collapsed into each other, sobbing. The entire gym was filled with panic, grief, and desperate searching. The look of raw terror on the faces of children and teachers is something I will carry with me forever. I will also carry the profound selflessness of the teachers, who protected students before thinking of themselves.

We cannot simply "move on." This was not a headline somewhere else. This is our life now. Our once fearless eight year old now panics when the sun sets. For weeks she woke up screaming, "If you're here, leave!" believing the shooter was in our house or outside her window. She didn't sleep through the night for over five weeks. This is a child who used to love bedtime. Now she fights sleep because sleep brings nightmares.

Our fourteen year old son recently skipped a hunting trip, a tradition with his father, grandfather, uncles, and cousins. He doesn't know if he can hear the sound of a gun again. We are a family of responsible gun owners. Hunting has always represented tradition, safety, and connection. Now even that sound carries trauma.

This year, our daughter is preparing for First Communion and our son for Confirmation. Instead of joyful anticipation, we are simply trying to help them walk back into a church. My son asked me, "I thought church was supposed to be the safest place you could ever go?" I had no answer. Only, "I'm sorry."

On August 27th, two children were killed. More than 30 were injured. Over 320 students, more than 50 staff members, countless parishioners, and every parent were forever changed. Children deserve to feel safe, in their schools, in their churches, in their communities. Fletcher Merkel and Harper Moyski should be here. This should have never been their story.

Our kids deserve childhoods free from memories of bullets, hiding places, and last breaths. Our communities deserve better. And we have the power to choose better. We can choose action over excuses. Courage over complacency. Solutions over silence.

As you gather this legislative session, I ask you to understand that while we have increased YOUR security measures, nothing meaningful has changed to address the root causes of the gun violence that shattered our community. Nothing has been done to increase the safety for OUR children. That is unacceptable.

You have a chance this session to make meaningful change and ensure Minnesota's children have safer schools and safer communities. I hope you will join me and other Annunciation families by spreading light and voting yes on HF3433 (Greenman) and HF3402 (Tabke).

Please do not let our children's trauma become another moment of silence followed by inaction. Make it matter.

Sincerely,  
Annie Feste

February 23, 2025

House Public Safety, Finance, and Policy

Dear Co-Chair Moller, Co-Chair Novotny, and members of the committee:

August 27, 2025, began like any other workday. I had early meetings downtown and left before my two children headed off to school. An hour later, my phone rang. It was my sister, a staff member at Annunciation. Her voice broke the normalcy: there had been a shooting during mass at the school. My fifth-grader was injured and being taken by ambulance to the hospital. I didn't know where my seventh-grader was. I didn't yet know the severity.

I remember messaging my coworkers to cancel my plans. "I have to leave. There's been a shooting at my kids' school," I typed—as if I were rescheduling a routine appointment or a house repair.

I cannot tell you the last thing I said to my children that morning. It was likely "I love you" or "Have a great third day of school," but the memory has been erased by what followed.

As parents, we are taught to manage risk. Before playdates, we ask the responsible questions: "Do your kids have allergies? Are there pets? Are there unsecured weapons in the home?" We do this to identify and mitigate danger. But August 27 forced me to confront a devastating reality: no matter how many questions I asked, there was nothing I could do to keep my children safe in the one place they should have been most secure.

The paralyzing panic I felt in that emergency department—not knowing the outcome, not knowing the "why"—has never fully left. It hijacks my sense of safety during the most mundane tasks: leaving the house, focusing on my job, or simply breathing.

My children's sense of sanctuary was stolen. They have since received letters from other school shooting survivors, and they ask us: "How do smart adults continue to allow this to happen? Why didn't you do something then? Will you do something now?"

I want to believe we can let this tragedy change our perspective. We must make good on our promise to keep children safe. I am here today to ask: What action will you take? What will you do?

I am asking you to show up as lawmakers, beyond party lines, to pass legislation that creates truly safer schools. You have a chance to make meaningful change in this session and ensure Minnesota's children have safer schools and communities. I hope you will join other Annunciation families and me by spreading light and voting yes on HF3433 (Greenman) and HF2402 (Tabke)

Sincerely,  
Annie Greenawalt  
Minneapolis, MN

February 23, 2026

House Public Safety Finance and Policy

Dear Co-chair Moller, Co-chair Novotny, and members of the committee:

In sharing my story of the horrific events from inside the church on August 27th, my goal is to make changes to ensure this never happens again. This is a goal we can all agree upon, so please, let's work together on this.

It's the third day of school and kids and parents alike are buzzing with the feeling of new. A new school year, new shoes, new uniforms, even a new school for some of the kids. New teachers, a new principal, and now entering the first school mass with our new priest, Father Zehren, whom we never knew we would come to love so quickly. As a mother of five with my youngest having entered full day kindergarten let me tell you, even I had an extra skip in my step those first couple days of school. I've always attended Wednesday morning mass with my children, and this Wednesday was no different. I sat in the back right corner, in front of many of my fellow parishioners, most of them elderly beloved parishioners I have come to know over my almost 15 years at the parish. I scanned the church for my 4 kids. Was my kindergartener present? I couldn't find her, so I thought maybe she was sitting on the front left where the kindergarten has sat in the past, if she was there at all. I later learned Kindergarten made the last minute decision not to attend mass that morning, which I now thank God for every day. I saw where my 4th grader and 6th grader were sitting, both in the middle upper right. Where was my second grader? I see his classmates but where is he? He is small so I figure he is somewhere in the mix.

Then- An opening song, a Gloria, a couple readings done by two middle school teachers seated up near the altar with Father. We sit. Suddenly, rapid popping sounds which sounded exactly like firecrackers. My first thought, is a middle schooler playing a prank? Firecrackers in church? Brief Silence, confusion. Another round of firecrackers, this time paired with screams and movement and chunks of wood flying into the air. The pews. My body says 'danger'. Everyone sitting in front of me stood and started to run to the side door to a stairwell leading to the basement of the church. My flight mode tells my body to go along with them. In my head 'dear Lord protect us all.' Panic, running down the stairs, into the preschool room. Shut the doors, huddle in the corner. Children crying, whimpering, screaming, asking me 'what's happening?' All throughout this time, constant shots, so, so loud and rapid. I later learned these were right above our heads, shooting from the outside in. I did not know this at the time. Here are some of the terrible things I imagined, not knowing the gunman was not in the church. 'He's killing everyone upstairs. He's shooting the people running out of the church. Where are my kids?' During this time, teachers are barricading the door of the room we are in. I am frantically calling 911, knowing this has already been done but just in case. There was an automated message on the other end, likely informing me officers are already being sent to our location. I couldn't hear it over the crying and hyperventilating from the kids around me. I look across the huddle and see my second grader, the one I couldn't locate when church first began. I ushered him over to me

and held him like I had never held him before. The preschool teacher, so brave in this moment, firmly tells the kids it is time to turn our voices off. This was his way of saying, without saying 'we don't want the shooter to know of our location'. We needed to be quiet. I look over at a child, holding a cross necklace, or maybe a rosary. He looks me in the eye and firmly says 'pray.' I say 'He's right. We need to pray. 'Pray, pray, pray' the kids and I all started to say. We say an Our Father, a Hail Mary. Was this before or after the noises stopped? I don't know. Eventually the teacher pointed out 'the scary noises have stopped. Let's wait until someone comes to help us.' I felt the slightest relief with this, but still, fear and sickness to my stomach. I say to my son, 'pray your siblings are ok'. I prompt the student next to me to take deep breaths to stop hyperventilating. Finally, we hear yelling-what I knew right away was the police. They came to our door, told us it was safe to come out. The kids were immediately standing, hugging one another, holding each other, crying. I hugged and held some of my kids' closest friends. I hugged one of my dearest mom friends, who was also in the church and told her 'I'm so scared.' I didn't know what we would find outside. We were directed to the 54th street doors. I saw more emergency vehicles and ambulances in a single place than I'd ever seen in my life. I see kids bleeding, being tended to in the grass outside. My thought was to protect the young eyes around me from seeing anything traumatic. 'Look at your teacher's face' I tell the preschoolers, 'keep watching your teacher.' We are directed to the gym where I immediately find my crying 6th grader and hug her fiercely. My 4th grader comes up to me enraged. His face red, tears. 'Why would they do this my friends?' he yells. He then continued to explore the gym and return with 'I can't find so and so.' 'Anthony's sister was taken to the hospital'. So much anger, fear, and confusion than any 10 year old should ever experience. I scan the crowd and find my kindergartner, sitting with her class. I have all my kids. Someone later asked me 'You were in the church? How are you so calm?' I still don't know whether it was because I was numb, in shock, or if it was because I had all my kids. The immense gratitude I felt having found all my kids may have overcome the trauma I had just experienced. But not for long. I later learned this was not true for all parents. This is the hardest part of all of this. Two innocent, beautiful children were taken from us that day. All of our lives were forever changed in a matter of minutes. At least once a day I feel profound, unfathomable grief when I think of the lives we lost and the families who lost their children.

The rapid fire sounds I heard that morning is what haunts me the most. The number of shots fired in what I now know was a very short amount of time should NEVER happen in the middle of civility, in the midst of children going through their daily routines.

Do I believe the elimination of weapons of mass destruction is the only solution? No. However, the number of injuries and deaths because of these specific weapons is 100 percent preventable. This is why we are asking lawmakers to join us in working together toward the peace and sense of safety every single one of us dreams of. I have come to the realization our pleas for a ban on assault style weapons are very unlikely to end with the result we want. For this reason, we need to work toward making it difficult to impossible for these weapons to end up in the wrong hands.

How do we do this? A few ideas- significantly more extensive background checks upon the attempted purchase of firearms, going back to school records that include suspensions and expulsions. Co-signatures required for purchase of guns of any type.

I am a strong believer in identification of red flags, and waving these red flags high. When these now all-too-common events occur, we look at the history of the suspect, and we are not surprised by the horrific acts they have committed. Typically there are red flags dating back to their early pre-teen years. This is why we need to make it significantly difficult to impossible to access these types of weapons and high capacity magazines. These weapons are falling into the wrong hands. More ideas – funding for increased security in schools. Funding for increasing awareness for what I recently learned about, ERPO, which prevents individuals who are possible risks to themselves or others from owning a firearm. As a therapist, of course I support and recommend increased access to mental health supports, especially in schools. This is a small piece to a puzzle that is difficult to solve. There are greater measures we can take in the meantime.

I agree with the argument that most gun owners are responsible. Some are not. This is costing innocent lives. I know there are lawmakers who will not move on this issue. You've made up your mind. It's your right. We can't take away your rights. Imagine the hopelessness this creates in people like us who have lived through this heinous, horrific experience. Think of the parents who have lost their sweet, innocent children. Think of Sophia, shot in the head, her life forever changed. Of the students injured. The unimaginable void we all feel from the loss of Fletcher and Harper. The damage done to our families and countless others near and far. Can you please, please just work with us to ensure this never happens again? We are begging you. Listen to your heart, and put that first. Let that lead your decisions, your votes. We all want peace. We all want our children, our grandchildren, your children, your grandchildren, to live in a better world. Let's work together to make this happen.

Join us in sharing the light. Vote yes on HF3433 and HF2402.

Sincerely and faithfully,  
Tara Keegan

2/23/26

Dear Representative Kelly Moller or whom it may concern,

I'm a mom of (3) boys that have attended Annunciation Catholic School. August 27th has forever changed our family and our community.

August 27<sup>th</sup> is a nightmare that plays over and over in our minds and dreams. There are rarely hours that go by where I do not think about the pain from that day. We have (3) boys that have attended Annunciation since our oldest started Kindergarten. Therefore, Annunciation has been our school and church community for over 13 years now. It is an amazing and special community where we truly care about and love each other. Watching so much of your community and friends go through this level of pain and trauma is absolutely heartbreaking and exhausting. Our community is trying so hard to find hope and to move forward but mostly it feels impossible. Sharing stories with each other about how our kids are doing and how we are doing after the shooting is both necessary and devastating – examples of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders talking baby talk, 13-year-old boys (many of them) sleeping with their parents, my friends son's finger and toe nails falling out due to the trauma, friends who are so angry at the world they can no longer find moments of peace. Life has simply seemed impossible.

There were approximately 100 bullets shot in 100 seconds into a locked church at approximately 300+ people by the shooter from outside the church. And even from a distance and outside of a locked church, the bullets were still able to explode the organs of Harper and Fletcher, killing them within moments. There is no place for weapons of this power and capacity in civilian life.

You have a chance this session to make sure no other children have to go through what mine have. You have a chance to show up as a lawmaker, not a democrat or a republican, to pass a bill that will create safer schools and communities.

I hope you will join me and other Annunciation families by spreading light. Please vote yes on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for reading my family's story. I'd be happy to find time to have a conversation in the future.

Laurie Vance

5516 Cumberland Rd

Minneapolis, MN 55410



February 24, 2026  
House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Co-Chair Moller, Co-Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

On behalf of Children's Minnesota, I am writing in support of HF3433 and HF3402, policies that would make important strides in protecting Minnesota children from gun violence.

Gun violence continues to be the number one killer of kids in the United States and, as a Level I Pediatric Trauma Center, our providers see firsthand the devastating impact that gun violence has on children and their families.

The mass shooting at Annunciation Church and School last year was the largest singular trauma incident Children's Minnesota has responded to. Our providers worked quickly and tirelessly to repair young bodies, damaged by bullet fragments. They listened as children told them that their injuries were sustained as they tried to protect younger students. They understood that because of the frequency of these kinds of mass shooting events, these children had spent a significant portion of their childhood preparing for something like this to happen to them.

We joined our community in mourning that day and today we continue joining our community in calling for action because this is not a reality we can accept for children in our state. Gun violence is a public health emergency that requires layered solutions, including taking steps to reduce access to weapons that make it easy to inflict an incredible amount of harm in a short amount of time.

These horrific events do not have to be inevitable. Together we can take tangible steps to protect the children of Minnesota. Your support of HF3433 and HF3402 can save lives.

I encourage you to view the enclosed op-ed from the Star Tribune written by Dr. Asitha Jayawardena, a pediatric ENT surgeon at Children's Minnesota, where he describes caring for one of the Annunciation shooting victims.

Sincerely,

Amanda Jansen, MPP  
Director of Public Policy  
Children's Minnesota

Enclosure: Star Tribune Op-ed



Link to op-ed: [I operated on a boy from Annunciation. He taught me this.](#)

## Opinion | I operated on a boy from Annunciation. Here's what he taught me.

I have gone to school for many years, but I lack the wisdom of 10-year-old Weston Halsne, my newest and most articulate role model.

By Asitha Jayawardena  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2025 AT 4:00PM

Dear America,

A few weeks ago, I met one of the most remarkable individuals I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. You may know him as Weston Halsne, the articulate 10-year-old child who described the Annunciation school shootings from his vantage point under a church pew. He described how his friend Victor lay over him to protect him. He described how his friends around him were shot, and how he escaped with only some “gunpowder” on his neck.

He showed up with his family to my pediatric ENT and facial plastic surgery clinic at Children's Minnesota to evaluate a small nick in his neck that, although it initially bled, was orders of magnitude less than the violence his friends were dealing with, so he waited until the day after to pursue care. His pediatrician had ordered an X-ray to make sure nothing was in his neck. After identifying a small metallic object on X-ray, the pediatrician called my team and I got him the next available spot in my clinic. I spoke to the family about what happened and listened to this remarkable child recount his harrowing story.

We attempted to understand the trajectory of the bullet and what his options were for removal. Together, we reviewed the typical strategy for retained bullets in the neck, which often, if they are small enough and not causing any problems, is to simply let them be. The other option, of course, being to cut it out. We obtained a CT scan to identify exactly where this bullet fragment existed among the other vital structures of his neck. As I scrolled through his CT scan, I watched the trajectory of this bullet stop the moment it touched his carotid artery, the main blood vessel to his head and neck. I will remember that moment, sitting alone in my office as I realized the gravity of his situation, for the rest of my life. The bullet fragment made a straight line from his entry wound to the life blood of his neck and ran out of momentum immediately prior to injuring this critically important structure. I called his family and described this miracle to them. I also described that the surgery to remove this would require intricately pulling the bullet off the carotid artery without disrupting its flow, a location with life-threatening complications.

Weston described how this bullet fragment represented something that killed his friends and he wanted it gone. We discussed, with his family, how it was important to them, for their own grieving, to remove this evil from his neck. As a surgeon, it's moments like this that make what I do worth it. Some families enjoy hearing all of the intricate surgical complexities that allow me to do what I do. However, today,

my job was to make Weston's life simpler. I made a promise to him the afternoon I met him to not let this bullet fragment be something that he would have to physically carry for the rest of his life. I didn't want him to be reminded of that terrible day every time he undergoes an MRI and is asked if he has metal in him; if he plays sports and his neck starts to hurt spontaneously; or if he goes on a roller coaster and has doubt about whether this thing moved. This innocent child is already carrying the weight of the world on his shoulders as the news media's appointed, yet unintended, face of this tragedy, immortalized by his viral description of that dreadful day.

A team of amazing individuals and I made Weston's life simpler by successfully removing the bullet fragment from his carotid artery at the Children's Minnesota Minneapolis hospital. I expect Weston to make a full recovery.

I often ask the children I see in my clinic what they want to be when they grow up. It helps me give perspective to the surgeries I perform for them in a context that both children and families can understand. I asked Weston this the day I met him, a couple days after he bore witness to the killing of his friends. In the midst of a story that would devastate any adult I know, his response was, "I'm not sure exactly ... but I know I want to be 'nice.'" I have gone to school for many years, but I certainly lack the wisdom and insight of this 10-year-old boy.

I write this story because I think we all have a little bit we could learn from Weston. Now that the dust has settled, the wounds are healing, the bullets removed, and those who are lost mourned — I have one final reflection. In the spirit of my newest and most articulate role model, Weston Halsne:

Dear America,

Cut it out.

Stop making school shootings political.

The children of this country are the best of us.

And it's up to the rest of us to keep them safe.

Now let's solve this problem together and find a way to be nice about it along the way. With love. And hope.

*Dr. Asitha Jayawardena is a pediatric ENT surgeon at Children's Minnesota and a father to two daughters. He shares this story with permission from Weston Halsne's family. The family asks for privacy during Weston's further recovery.*



February 24, 2026

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny, and Members of the Committee:

The Minnesota Catholic Conference writes in support of H.F. 3402 (Tabke), which bans “high-capacity” ammunition magazines. This long overdue proposal is a reasonable limitation on access to dangerous weapons for which the benefits significantly outweigh the burdens on gun ownership. Please vote “yes.”

### **A practical, non-burdensome way to save lives**

Feeding devices that hold more than ten rounds of ammunition allow a shooter to continuously fire bullets without reloading. Statistics from Everytown for Gun Safety<sup>1</sup> show that in mass shootings where four or more people were killed (2015-2022), incidents with high-capacity magazines led to:

- More than twice as many people killed
- Nearly ten times more people wounded per incident (on average)
- Nearly five times more people shot per incident (on average)

Without the availability of high-capacity magazines, the extra seconds it takes the gunman to reload or resort to another weapon allows more people to escape and seek safety. This short time lapse may make the difference between life and death.

Notably, this proposal does not limit the amount of ammunition that a gun owner may possess or carry. Although it may be considered an inconvenience to some, it will likely create a positive impact on public safety. According to one study, “bans of large-capacity magazines (LCMs) were associated with significant reductions in the incidence of fatal mass shootings,” and, along with background checks, “laws banning LCMs are the most effective gun policies for reducing fatal mass shootings.”<sup>2</sup>

### **Gun laws are necessary, but not sufficient**

Mass shootings are about more than guns. Sadly, we live in a society that incubates troubled people whose nihilism leads them to destroy the lives of even the most innocent. These tragic events, shaped by our violent culture, are often born out of despair. Hurt people hurt people.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.everytown.org/solutions/prohibit-high-capacity-magazines/>

<sup>2</sup> Webster, et al. “Evidence concerning the regulation of firearms design, sale, and carrying on fatal mass shootings in the United States,” *Criminology & Public Pol’y* 171 (2020), available at <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12487>.

If we limit access to guns, in some instances those same people will find other ways to kill. There are many such cases. The needed policy changes and spiritual renewal should be more comprehensive than simply changing gun laws and should also include better access to mental-health supports, improving school-safety measures, and curtailing substance abuse—including the growing prevalence of marijuana-induced psychosis among young men.

Yet gun policy matters. Commonsense regulations to prevent the most egregious acts of gun violence (including enforcing existing laws on the books to keep dangerous people off the street) come with little cost and might save hundreds of lives per year.

### **We should not give into cynicism**

If we can take reasonable steps such as this one that keep dangerous weapons out of people's hands, especially in ways that do not place burdensome limitations on the civil right of gun ownership and the natural right of self-defense, then we should do so.

Arguing that such laws are futile because people will travel to other states to make these purchases or criminals will ignore them altogether is like saying we should not put measures in place that guard against theft because "stealers gonna steal." Yes, Congress renewing the now-expired federal assault weapons ban would be a more effective policy instrument, but Minnesota can and should join 14 other states in enacting this prudent measure.

Auxiliary Bishop Kevin Kenney of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, himself a graduate of Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis, states:

*Our children are our most precious gift. After seeing and experiencing the devastation and pain of gun violence at Annunciation, which has tragically occurred in other places, too, we should continue to take reasonable public policy steps as a state to eliminate the risk of more children experiencing such a horrific act. With rights come responsibilities, and limitations on access to dangerous weaponry can protect the most fundamental of rights—the right to life. Let's come together as a community to find a way and discern together about a constructive way forward that, while not ignoring the complexity of the problem of gun violence, seeks to transcend partisanship and ideology to find concrete solutions that protect our children. This proposal does just that.*

Thank you for your consideration.

Jason Adkins  
Executive Director  
jadkins@mncatholic.org

February 24, 2026

Minnesota State Capitol Room 120  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the undersigned medical organizations, representing thousands of physicians across the state, we respectfully urge you to support legislation to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines in Minnesota.

The leading cause of death for children in the United States is not cancer, car crashes, or overdose – it is firearms. According to a report published in 2024 by the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, firearm deaths among those aged 1 to 17 have increased by 106 percent since 2013 and have been the leading cause of death among this group since 2020. Episodes of school shootings have risen sharply in recent years. These tragedies, including the August 27 shooting at Annunciation Catholic Church and School, leave children and families devastated, and leave a lasting impact on survivors and other school-aged children. Increased exposure to gun violence adversely impacts the psychological and mental well-being of children and adolescents and negatively affects their educational performance and social development.

In addition, studies cited by Everytown for Gun Safety found that states with bans on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines experienced a lower rate of mass shooting fatalities compared to states without such bans. Furthermore, studies also found that mass shooting fatalities were 70% less likely during the 10-year period of the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban, compared to the periods before and after the ban expired in 2004.

According to the latest finalized data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 48,204 people died from gunshots in the U.S. in 2022 – the second highest total ever recorded. More people suffer nonfatal firearm-related injuries than die, but those who survive often experience long-term traumatic impacts. These include problems with memory, thinking, emotions, paralysis, other physical disabilities, and chronic mental health problems, including post-traumatic stress disorder.

There is no other way to say it – death and injury by firearm is a public health crisis. In 2022, firearm injuries ranked among the five leading causes of death for people ages 1-44 in the United States. Physicians and other healthcare professionals witness firsthand the devastating impact of firearm violence on individuals, families, and communities. As physicians, we respectfully call on state lawmakers to enact evidence-based firearm policies to save lives and protect the well-being of all Minnesotans, but especially those who are most vulnerable – children and adolescents.

Sincerely,

February 24, 2026

## **WRITTEN TESTIMONY – DR. RACHEL WEIGERT**

Dear Co-Chair Moller, Co-Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Rachel Weigert. I am a mother, a pediatric emergency room physician and a gun violence prevention researcher and I am writing in full support HF3433 and HF3402.

I was working in the Emergency Department at Children’s Minnesota on the day of the Annunciation shooting. That shift began like many others, waking up early for a 7am start. My husband was driving our girls to their well child checks that morning, messaging me with questions, and later noting that it was odd that he was passing so many ambulances headed all in the same direction. He knew something was wrong, and moments later we got the call from emergency medical services that we would be receiving a 10-year-old with a gunshot wound to the head; we were almost immediately updated that this was an active shooter situation at a school.

As a level one pediatric trauma center, our staff train regularly to be able to respond to these kinds of tragic events, but the Annunciation shooting was the largest singular trauma incident we have responded to in recent history. With just five minutes to prepare for six injured children, I had to collect myself quickly. Trauma activations in the emergency department are swiftly orchestrated events, and we immediately mobilized with over fifty additional pediatric staff to care for these children. I performed that day utilizing everything I have learned in my seven years as a pediatric emergency medicine physician, while also balancing thoughts like the fact that my own daughter had her kindergarten open house the next day, and thinking of how terrified all these sweet children must be in this nightmarish situation. I quickly sent a text to my husband that read “mass shooting,” and then didn’t speak to him again for the next 3 hours.

As a gun violence prevention researcher, I am well versed in the statistics of gun violence in America, including the fact that guns have been the leading cause of death in children since 2020. But my life was changed the moment we received that phone call, and that children died in their school five minutes from my own home. The fact that this is our reality as parents is a nightmare.

That morning, we quickly cut blood-stained school uniforms from children in order to evaluate their injuries; clothes that were later bagged by police for evidence. All the children we cared for arrived without family. Some were in shock, and some were sobbing uncontrollably. I had to remind myself repeatedly to focus on the task at hand, and not let my emotions get the best of me. Because while we are prepared for a mass casualty incident, truly nothing can prepare you psychologically for something as devastating and violating as caring for children who were attacked in their own school.

It should go without saying, but any bullet can do an incredible amount of damage, especially to a child’s small body. A bullet from an automatic rifle is designed to splinter into dozens of twisted metal shards, which can instantly kill a child. When this type of bullet strikes tissue, it begins to topple end over end, and can create a significant internal defect, almost the size of a torso in a young child. The shooter fired 116 of these bullets into Annunciation Church that morning in just under two minutes. The conversations I had with my patients that day still haunt me. The juxtaposition of one child telling me that he was shot in the back while laying on top of his friend, likely saving his life, against his innocent excitement at having received a new matchbox truck for his collection from our child life team. Another young girl also instinctively laid on top of first graders, shielding them from the spray of bullets. As I removed bullet fragments from her arm and leg, she asked how we could leave the fragment in her

skull, knowing that it would be there every time she brushed her hair. Medically, I can answer these questions. But as an adult, I truly feel like we have failed our children.

The common theme I heard from the kids that day was “I knew what to do because we prepare for this”. While I am in awe of these students’ bravery, I am also devastated by the fact that we live in a society where we have asked this of our children and educators, to prepare with militaristic precision for the inevitability that they will be targeted and potentially murdered in their own school. As a doctor, I am supposed to train and prepare for the worst. Not kids. Not educators. Not parents.

My children, your children, and any child that calls Minnesota home deserves to know that they can stay safe from gun violence, whether at home, school, church, or anywhere in the community. Passing these pieces of legislation would demonstrate your commitment to that shared goal. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Rachel Weigert, MD  
Physician, Emergency Medicine, Children's Minnesota  
Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota Medical School

Dear Honorable Ellen McDaniel,

My name is Alexa McIndoe and I am a resident of Shakopee, MN. I am writing to urge your strong support for **HF 3402**, the Banning of High-Capacity Magazines, which would make it illegal to buy or possess magazines containing more than ten rounds.

High-capacity magazines make violent attacks exceptionally deadly, and states that restrict them have fewer and less lethal mass shootings than states without such limits. Firearm injuries are now the leading cause of death for children and adolescents in the United States. Reducing the lethality of weapons in public spaces directly supports kids' ability to travel to and from school (and simply grow up).

I urge you to vote in favor of **HF 3402** when it comes before you. Thank you for your leadership and for considering my views as your constituent. I look forward to hearing your position on this matter.

Sincerely,

Alexa McIndoe

Testimony of Ashleigh Shelton for HF 3433 and HF 3402  
Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny, and Committee Members,

My name is Ashleigh Shelton and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons, and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high-capacity magazine, respectively.

Although I have spent much of my career teaching, the ongoing reality of gun violence has significantly shaped the professional choices I make. I have not taught on campus in years, largely because I no longer feel safe in traditional classroom environments. The steady stream of school shootings and acts of public violence has created a persistent level of anxiety that is difficult to ignore.

Even though I have not personally experienced a shooting, the psychological impact is very real. Preparing to teach should center on student learning, engagement, and connection. Instead, I find myself thinking about exit routes, worst case scenarios, and how quickly a normal class session could turn into a crisis. That mental load changes the emotional landscape of teaching.

Outside of the classroom, the threat of gun violence contributes to a broader sense of unease in everyday life. Routine activities like attending large events, traveling, or simply being in crowded public spaces now carry an undercurrent of vigilance. This is not how educators or community members should have to move through the world.

The result is that highly qualified educators like myself make professional decisions based not only on pedagogy or student needs, but also on personal safety concerns. That reality

represents a real, human cost. When fear meaningfully shapes where and how educators are willing to teach, it affects students, institutions, and the strength of our educational system as a whole.

My hope is that sharing experiences like mine helps illustrate that the impact of gun violence extends far beyond the immediate tragedies we see in headlines. It quietly reshapes careers, classrooms, and communities every single day.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this urgent legislation.

Respected Judicial Committee  
Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Barbara Landes and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a retired elementary classroom teacher who spent too much time preparing for the possibility of a mass shooting at my school. The thought of not being able to protect the lives of my students in the event of an active shooter situation was a weight I had to bear through many years of my career. This should not be something a caring teacher has to be concerned about!!! And yet it continues to be a cold and bitter reality for educators all across this state and across this country.

I am writing today because the horror of what happened at Annunciation School in Minneapolis last August must not happen again! I have heard the testimony of many Annunciation parents who's children were involved in that horrific scene. You may think that Harper Moyski and Fletcher Merkel were the only victims of that mass shooting. But as one parent said, anyone in that chapel that morning is a living victim. The trauma that these children and their families continue to face should never happen! No child should be triggered by the sound of a biscuit can opening. No child should have to give up hockey because the sound of the puck being slapped is the same as the sound of gunfire. No child should have to ask their parents for a home security system for Christmas. No child should be afraid to sleep near a window, or have to sleep with a parent or have recurrent nightmares. My retelling of these various traumas is not doing the victims justice. I hope you have the opportunity to hear their stories for yourselves at some point. And, if you do, I hope you truly understand the depth of damage this one shooting has done to so many children. We don't know how this event will continue to wreak havoc on the mental health of these children and their parents and siblings. BUT, we CAN take steps to prevent another mass shooting by adopting HF3433 and HF 32402.

Please consider these facts: (provided by Everytown for Gun Safety)

State assault weapons ban are associated with a lower likelihood of an active shooter event.

High-capacity magazines are commonplace in mass shootings and make shootings more lethal.

Research shows that restrictions on high-capacity magazines can help prevent injuries and fatalities.

A 2021 study found that the federal prohibition on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines was associated with a significant decrease in public mass shootings and related casualties, preventing at least 11 public mass shootings during the 10 years it was in effect.

Given these facts, can you provide one plausible reason why anyone who is not in the military or a member of law enforcement would need to possess an assault ban weapon or high-capacity magazines? These bills are not an attack on the rights of gun owners – merely an action to protect the innocent.

In conclusion, I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402. Thank you for considering this important legislation.

Barbara Landes  
Apple Valley, MN



February 24, 2026

Members of the Minnesota House Public Safety Committee

Minnesota State Capitol, Room 120  
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

On behalf of Protect Minnesota, I write to express our strong support for HF 3433, and HF 3402. These bills represent critical, evidence-based steps toward reducing the frequency and lethality of mass shootings and everyday gun violence throughout our state.

Assault-style weapons and high-capacity magazines are designed for rapid fire and maximum casualty potential. Their sole purpose on the battlefield underscores the danger they pose when present in our communities. Research consistently demonstrates that restricting access to these weapons and high-capacity ammunition feeding devices reduces the likelihood and severity of mass shooting events, saving lives and preventing immeasurable trauma. Banning these weapons and magazines will not only help prevent devastating acts of violence but also strengthen the safety of law enforcement, first responders, and the general public.

As we have tragically seen in Minnesota in the last several months in tragedies ranging from the assassination of Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and the shooting of Senator John Hoffman to the tragedy at Annunciation and beyond, gun violence inflicts profound harm on families, neighborhoods, and the social fabric of our communities. As Minnesotans, we have an obligation to pursue policies that protect lives. HF 3433 and HF 3402 do so by targeting the weapons most often used in high-casualty shootings.

Protect Minnesota urges you to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, and we thank you for your leadership in advancing common-sense public safety solutions that reflect the values and priorities of our communities.

Sincerely,

Maggiy Emery, Executive Director  
Protect Minnesota



February 23, 2026  
Members of the House Public Safety Committee  
*Via Electronic Delivery*

Dear Co-Chairs Moller and Novotny and Members of the Committee,

Violence Free Minnesota, the coalition to end relationship abuse, writes today in support of HF 3402. Our coalition consists of over 90 member programs who provide direct services to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence in every county in Minnesota. Survivors and their communities will be made safer if reasonable limitations are imposed on firearm magazine sizes.

The link between domestic violence and mass violence is well-established.<sup>1</sup> While it is true that *any* gun is a threat to a domestic violence survivor, it is also true that bystanders, intervenors, neighbors, children, first responders, and other community members are often killed in acts of domestic violence. The ability to fire many shots quickly without ceasing undoubtedly makes abusive partners a more dangerous threat not only to their partner, but also to their community.

Our coalition has tracked every known domestic violence homicide since 1989, including homicides of bystanders and intervenors. Isolating our data to the years 2014-2024, and only looking at domestic violence homicides where more than one victim was killed, we can find 18 incidents accounting for 44 deaths. In 16 of these incidents (88.9%), a gun was involved, and gun fatalities made up 40 (90.9%) of the deaths. The deaths in this dataset includes siblings, children, infants, unborn children, at least 3 police officers, and at least one EMT. All of their losses are an unimaginable tragedy, brought about by domestic violence, and too often enabled by firearms.

While a high capacity magazine ban will not stop all domestic violence homicides, it is a reasonable step towards lessening the overall threat posed to the general community by abusive partners. We are glad to support this legislation, and ask that you vote to pass it.

Thank you,  
*Katie Kramer and Nikki Engel*  
Co-Executive Directors  
Violence Free Minnesota

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<sup>1</sup> [The Link Between Domestic Violence and Mass Shootings | The New Yorker](#)

Feb. 23, 2026

Representative Kelly Moller  
Representative Paul Novotny  
House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee  
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard,  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Monica Byron  
*President*

Marty Fridgen  
*Vice President*

Ryan Fiareck  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

Carrie Lucking  
*Executive Director*

Dear Chairs Moller and Novotny,

On behalf of Education Minnesota, the state's largest union representing over 84,000 educators, we are writing to express our strong support for H.F. 3433 and H.F. 3402.

Students deserve safe communities, schools, and campuses that promote their learning and development. But sadly, children and young people are surrounded by gun violence. According to a 2024 Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions report, firearms are continuing to kill more children ages 1 to 17 than any other cause, including car crashes and cancer.

Students deserve the freedom to live, learn, and play without the constant threat of gun violence. Yet our students are coming of age in an era of mass shootings in many of the places we gather. Massacres at Columbine, Virginia Tech, Sandy Hook, Umpqua Community College, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Robb Elementary, the Covenant School, and too many other schools have traumatized children, their families and educators.

In our own communities, the tragic killings of Melissa and Mark Hortman and students at Annunciation Catholic School are high-profile examples of the devastation caused by mass shootings.

Pew Research Center's recent analysis of federal data shows that the number of children and teens killed by gunfire in the U.S. increased by 50 percent between 2019 and 2021. This same analysis showed that in 2024, nearly 60% of educators worried about the possibility of gun violence at their schools.

Students should not have to endure drills on how to hide from mass murderers. Educators should not be forced to make impossible choices in harrowing attempts to protect students from the worst horrors imaginable.

While no single piece of state legislation can prevent all gun violence, data is clear that states with stricter gun safety regulations have less gun violence. To protect our students and save lives, we must come together to pass common-sense reforms, starting with H.F. 3433 and H.F. 3402.

Sincerely,



Monica Byron  
*President, Education Minnesota*

41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103  
651-227-9541 800-652-9073  
[www.educationminnesota.org](http://www.educationminnesota.org)

Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers,  
the National Education Association and AFL-CIO. 



**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**



Lisa Mattson, MD  
President, Minnesota Medical Association



Katie Smentek, MD, FAAP  
President, Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics



Jamie Conniff, MD, MPH  
President, Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians



Tseganesh Selameab, MD, FACP  
Governor, Minnesota Chapter of the American College of Physicians



Erin Stevens, MD  
Legislative Chair, ACOG-MN



Lonnie Widmer, MD  
President, Minnesota Psychiatric Society



Israel Sokeye, MD  
President, Minnesota Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

February 23, 2026

Dear Ms. McDaniel,

I am writing in support of HF 3433 - Assault Weapons Ban and HF 3402 - High Capacity Magazine Ban. It is time to pass these!

I am a gun owner, hunter, retired teacher and a father. I am deeply concerned about gun violence. Guns are inflicting insurmountable damage to our communities. My wife and I know it's only a matter of time until we, personally, are affected by a massacre *unless change happens*.

When my wife and I consider attending large events we first consider the risk of a gun massacre. When we do choose to attend, I carry a tourniquet and first aid kit.

It is difficult to imagine the trauma our children have to face given the fact that active shooter drills are now a regular routine in our schools. Exposing children to the risk of another school shooting, as well as drill induced trauma is insane!

Assault weapons are disproportionately and increasingly used in mass shootings. Over half of the deadliest mass shootings in history involved assault weapons, with their use spiking from 19% in the 1990s to nearly 60% in the 2020s. Research suggests that banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines could significantly reduce mass shootings and deaths. (The Violence Prevention Project, Hamline University) Look at other countries and see how they control their guns for a safer population. We have these massacres because we allow these weapons of mass destruction.

Do what is right! Ban these weapons which are built for slaughter!

Sincerely,  
Bill Bruihler  
Northfield, MN



**MINNESOTA NURSES ASSOCIATION**  
345 Randolph Ave. Ste.200, St. Paul, MN 55102  
651.414.2800 | mnnurses@mnnurses.org

February 24, 2026

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota State Capitol Building, Room 120  
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard.,  
St Paul, MN 55155

Dear Co-Chair Moller, Co-Chair Novotny, and Public Safety Committee Members,

The Minnesota Nurses Association's nearly 23,000 members represent 80% of the RNs that actively work at the bedside in hospitals across Minnesota, as well as nurses and other workers in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, clinics, the state prisons and mental health facilities, local public health agencies, state agencies, and elsewhere. MNA advocates for strong public policies that will improve patient care, working conditions, corporate accountability, and policies that will promote better public health. On behalf of MNA, **I write today in strong support of HF3433 and HF3402.**

MNA supports comprehensive legislation to address the public health crisis of gun violence in its many forms. Two of the necessary components of addressing the public health and public safety needs of our state, especially in the aftermath of what Minnesotans have experienced over the past year, are addressed in legislation being heard in committee today:

- HF3433 (Greenman): this legislation defines “military-style assault weapons” in state law and establishes a prohibition on owning these weapons of war. Such weapons are explicitly designed for the battlefield, yet they have been used in some of the most catastrophic and tragic instances of gun violence in the nation; and
- HF3402 (Tabke): this legislation defines “high-capacity magazines” and prohibits Minnesotans from owning these military-style tools, the same types of magazines that have been used by mass shooters.

Minnesota's communities are not safer or healthier because military-grade weapons and magazines, explicitly designed for the battlefield, are generally accessible to the public. Minnesotans know all too well the horrors and tragedies of gun violence, while our emergency room and ICU nurses see the results of gun violence firsthand as they seek to treat patients, support families, and help heal communities. There is no reason for weapons of war to be in our communities, and it is well past the time for state lawmakers to finally act. **We urge you to vote yes on HF3433 and HF3402.**

Sincerely,

Chris Rubesch, RN  
President, Minnesota Nurses Association

Hello,

I am writing to support the ban on Assault Rifles and High Capacity Magazines. Two of our Granddaughters attend Annunciation Catholic School and lived through the horror of the shooter at Annunciation Church on August 27<sup>th</sup>. My husband and I rushed to the hospital to be with our 10-year-old Granddaughter. We could barely think straight on the ride down. I will never ever forget seeing my small Granddaughter lying in bed with blood on her face and neck with an IV and monitors hooked up to her. She has healed physically, but has been haunted by the idea that she might have saved her dear friend who died sitting next to her, even though she shouted for her to get down and detectives told her there was nothing she

could have done. She has experienced sheer terror for months and is still traumatized.

Nobody, let alone a child should ever have to experience the sights, sounds and yes, even the smells of that day.

These weapons and tools of destruction must be banned from getting into the hands of people with evil intentions.

PLEASE: for our Granddaughters, the children who lost their lives, all those affected by this tragedy as well as the people, who are just trying to live a safe and fulfilling life – vote in favor of this bill.

Thank you for your time,

Barb Thompson-Ayers

Candace Kragthorpe  
1017 Legion St S  
Shakopee, MN 55379

Ellen McDaniel, Committee Administrator  
Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee  
Rm. 200 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: **House File 3402**. Possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines banned.

Dear Committee Members,

As a registered voter and retired public health professional with expertise in firearm-related injuries and death, I am writing this letter **in support of HF 3402** to ban possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines.

Deaths and injuries due to large-capacity ammunition magazines are a public health crisis. These incidents adversely impact community and workplace safety, education, mental health, child development, health care costs, and economic productivity.

I urge you to please give your most serious discernment to the passage of this and other related bills. Thank you for all you do to promote public safety in Minnesota.

Very sincerely,



Candace Kragthorpe

[candykragthorpe@outlook.com](mailto:candykragthorpe@outlook.com)

952-250-0907



Dear Members of the Minnesota House Public Safety Committee,

I am writing as a Minnesota parent to express my strong support for a ban on high-capacity magazines. I urge you to take decisive action to protect our children, our educators, and our communities.

Last year, my children's local private school was placed on lockdown following a shooting at Annunciation. They were terrified and did not know whether or not they were safe. They were scared, confused, and convinced they might die at school. In the days and weeks that followed, they refused to return to school. They did not want to attend church. They were anxious, withdrawn, and fearful.

They are still in therapy today as a result of that trauma. Even now, they are nervous to attend sports functions at Annunciation Catholic School because of the shooting that occurred there last year. No child should associate school, church, or a basketball game with fear of death. No family should have to weigh the risk of violence when sending their children to learn, pray, and play.

Teachers and school administrators are doing everything they can. But schools are already stretched thin—academically, emotionally, and financially. They do not have the time, staffing, or resources to transform themselves into hardened security facilities. Even if they did, we must acknowledge a painful truth: no amount of locked doors, drills, or security cameras can fully protect against someone intent on causing mass harm with a weapon equipped with a high-capacity magazine. These devices are designed to maximize casualties in the shortest amount of time. They have no place in our communities.

Reducing access to high-capacity magazines is a reasonable, evidence-based step that can lessen the severity of shootings and give victims and law enforcement crucial seconds to respond. This is not about politics—it is about prevention. It is about acknowledging that while we cannot eliminate all violence, we can reduce its scale and its impact.

As members of the Minnesota House of Representatives, you have the authority and responsibility to improve community and school safety. Government exists to protect its people—especially its children. Please do your job so as to prevent another tragedy. Please act with courage and compassion and pass a ban on high-capacity magazines.

Our children deserve to feel safe in their classrooms. Parents deserve peace of mind. And Minnesota deserves laws that reflect our shared commitment to life and safety.

Thank you for your time and your service.

Sincerely,  
Carrie Sweetser  
Edina, Minnesota

Testimony of Chris Harrell for HF 3433 and HF 3402

Volunteer with Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America/Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense In America

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy

Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Chris Harrell and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I grew up in Mound, currently reside in Wayzata, and work in downtown St. Paul. I have lived in Minnesota my entire life and want what's best for our community.

I am testifying today because I was in ninth grade when I heard the news that my childhood friend, Seth Bartell, was the first victim of gun violence in Minnesota schools. On August 27, 2025, my former coworker had to experience the death of his grandchild, Fletcher, as a result of the shooting at Annunciation Catholic School. My son, a 4-year old at Notre Dame Academy, a Catholic school in Minnetonka that is affiliated with Annunciation, was put on lockdown his second day of preschool out of an abundance of caution for his safety.

I am writing to implore you to act immediately on gun reform in Minnesota. As the son of a former police chief, I understand the impact that mass shooting events, as well as unfettered access to the assault weapons and magazines used to inflict maximum damage, have on the lives of victims as well as first responders. Since 2015, each of the highest-casualty mass shootings has involved an assault weapon and a high-capacity magazine. What we are seeing and experiencing is preventable, even if violence won't be eradicated overnight.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Feb 23, 2026

Dear House Committee on Public Safety:

Please pass HF 3433 & 3402.

I have been a Family Physician in the Community Clinics of the Twin Cities for 45 years before retiring in 2024 from Community University Health Care Center in the Phillips Neighborhood. I also live a mile from Annunciation Church in South Minneapolis.

I have seen first hand the harm that firearms cause to our people, our families, and our communities – by suicide, drive bys, and mass shootings. Stopping assault rifles and high capacity magazines will not solve everything – but it is a reasonable first step.

Please help to improve safety for Minnesotans and pass 3433 & 3402.

Thank you,

Dr. Christopher Reif

David Kragthorpe  
1017 Legion St S  
Shakopee, MN 55379

Ellen McDaniel, Committee Administrator  
Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee  
Rm. 200 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: **House File 3402.** Possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines banned.

Dear Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee Members,

As a concerned life-long Minnesotan and registered voter, I am writing this letter in **support of HF 3402** to ban possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines.

Please do all you can to advance critical legislation such as HF 3402. Thank you for your efforts to protect the safety and well-being of all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

David Kragthorpe

[dkragthorpe@live.com](mailto:dkragthorpe@live.com)

952-250-8056

# Gun Violence Prevention

TO: Members of the Minnesota House Public Safety Committee

FROM: Rev. Dr. Ron Letnes - Chair - ENGAGE: Lutherans for Gun Violence Prevention - Public Witness Work Group of the 106 congregations within the St. Paul Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Members of the Minnesota House Public Safety Committee, I affirm your commitment to striving to make Minnesotans more gun safe, that all may live lives more fully alive as citizens and gifts of God for each other.

The proper use of firearms can enhance one's quality of life. Firearms offer recreation, hunting and competition. For many, firearms offer security from perceived threat. There can be a wholesomeness to firearm ownership and use. This practice must be authorized and affirmed.

Yet, firearms also have a dark side. Firearms are used for self harm, murder and accidental tragedies. In 2025, 574 Minnesotans died of gun violence: nearly 2/3 by self harm, 1/3 by homicide, about 1% by police and accidents. All of these deaths were tragedies.

The good news is we can help Minnesotans be more gun safe. How? By proposing and passing gun safe laws. The data is clear and overwhelming. Those states and nations with fair and rightly focused laws permit gun purchase and use, protect people and make homes and communities more gun safe.

Passing gun safe laws is not about banning guns. It is about keeping people alive, about enhancing a reverence for life. As a Christian, I have been taught that ALL people are created in the

Image of God, loved by God, and called to love each other. Rightly focused gun laws reflect reverence for life and our common holiness.

Furthermore, the United States Constitution begins with the beautiful pronouncement: WE THE PEOPLE. As citizens we are members of one another, accountable to and for each other. We are not unleashed individuals, islands to ourselves, accountable only to our passions. We are created for “a more perfect union, domestic tranquility, and to promote the general welfare, that we may ALL secure the blessings of liberty.”

Therefore, I urge support for the passage of HF-3433, a ban on assault-type weapons, and HF-3402, a ban on high capacity magazines. These weapons and devices are appropriate for the battlefield and regulated police duty, and NOT for civilian use. And furthermore, I urge the banning of “Ghost Guns” which are unregistered, untraceable, and lacking serial numbers, weapons often used in crimes.

Rightly focused gun safety laws honor our being created in God’s Image and respectful of citizenship; individual and unique, yet accountable for each other’s lives. I urge you to move forward to make Minnesotans more gun safe. Thank you.

To MN House Public Safety Committee:  
Re: High-Capacity Magazine Ban

I am writing to ask for some common sense and reason to come from our legislators. There is no reason to allow citizens in this state to own high-capacity firearms and high-capacity magazines. None.

I am a 72-year-old lifelong Minnesota resident and small business owner. I shoot skeet at a gun club. I am a MN DNR Volunteer Firearm Safety Instructor of 26 years. My family and I are deer hunters. Most importantly, I am a grandfather.

My grandchildren live near Annunciation. They are 6 and 9 years old. They know exactly what happened and they know exactly what the political debate is about. They have firearms stored in their basement. And, by the way, they may not hunt with me ever again, due to this sloppy mismanagement. You've hurt me more with that statement, than shooting me. I have many hunting and shooting sports friends and not ONE OF THEM, sees the need for these weapons of destruction and human carnage. We once again are ruining our outdoor heritage sports and the funds derived from these activities, to keep our public lands available to all.

Please stop this completely inaccurate interpretation of our Second Amendment.

For God's sake , think bigger than the politics.

David A. Larson  
2112 Emerson Avenue North  
Apt. #1  
Minneapolis, MN 55405  
612-859-8794



Testimony of Daniel Sagrera, State Policy Manager  
Support for HF3433 and HF3402  
Before the House Public Safety Committee  
February 24, 2026

Dear Co-Chairs Moller and Novotny, Vice-Chairs Feist and Witte, and Distinguished Members of the House Public Safety Committee,

Founded in 1974, Brady works to change the law, change the industry, and change culture to free America from gun violence. Our organization today carries the name of Jim Brady, who was shot and severely injured in the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. Jim and his wife, Sarah, led the fight to pass federal legislation requiring background checks for gun sales. Brady continues to uphold Jim and Sarah's legacy by uniting Americans across the country in the fight to prevent gun violence.

**In pursuit of our goal to reduce firearm violence across Minnesota, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence is proud to support the passage of HF3433 and HF3402.**

Minnesota leaders have persisted in prioritizing the safety and well-being of Minnesotans by enacting and implementing proactive, research-informed policy solutions that prevent gun violence, save lives, and spare entire communities from loss, trauma, and cycles of violence. Despite this, data shows that every 16 hours, someone in Minnesota is killed by gun violence.<sup>1</sup> One firearm death is one too many, and legislators can do more to protect their constituents from these weapons of war – like pass HF3433 and HF3402.

These policies are popular, with 61% of Minnesotans in support of banning assault weapons in the state and 64% supporting a ban on large capacity magazines (LCMs).<sup>2</sup>

**Restrictions on Assault Weapons and Large Capacity Magazines**

Assault weapons are weapons of war; in fact, the only functional difference between an AR-15 and a military-issue M4 rifle is that the latter can shoot more than one bullet with a pull of the trigger.<sup>3</sup> Assault weapons are uniquely lethal due to the tactical features that differentiate these weapons from hunting rifles that fire the same caliber ammunition.

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<sup>1</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *WISQARS Injury Data*, <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> Minnesota 2025 Poll Findings:

<https://www.everytown.org/press/new-poll-majority-of-minnesotans-demand-assault-weapons-ban-pressure-mounts-as-governor-walz-fails-to-call-special-session-one-month-after-annunciation-church-school-shooting/>

<sup>3</sup> Collins, M. (2022, March 22). *[What's the difference?]: AR-15 vs M4*. Pew Pew Tactical. Retrieved November 15, 2022, from <https://www.pewpewtactical.com/ar15-vs-m4-difference/>

These features – like detachable magazines, barrel shrouds, pistol grips, forward grips, and telescoping stocks – allow a shooter to either conceal the weapon or to make it easier to fire a high volume of ammunition in a short period of time while maintaining accuracy.<sup>4</sup> When any gun is paired with a large capacity magazine that can hold 10, 20, or even 100 rounds, the risk of death is exacerbated exponentially. When up to 100 bullets can be fired in quick succession without requiring a shooter to pause and reload, it is harder for law enforcement to intervene or for victims to escape. Accordingly, there is a direct correlation between access to large capacity magazines and the frequency of mass shootings.

A typical AR-15 bullet leaves the barrel of the gun three times faster than a typical 9mm handgun bullet.<sup>5</sup> The .223 caliber bullet is designed to fragment and tumble when it hits its target. When this type of bullet enters the human body, the high velocity of the bullet damages and destroys tissue as it travels, causing organs to become liquefied and causing catastrophic internal bleeding.<sup>6</sup> With an assault-style weapon, even a firearms novice can perpetrate a mass casualty incident - in fact, many of the deadliest mass shooters were not particularly experienced with guns, and yet they almost exclusively chose these weapons.

LCMs are ammunition feeding devices that can hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition. They allow shooters to rapidly fire bullets without stopping to reload, giving victims less time to escape and for law enforcement officers or others to incapacitate the shooter. Firearms equipped with large-capacity magazines make instances of violence exceptionally deadly. Studies have shown that fatal mass shootings committed with firearms equipped with LCMs result in 60%–67% more fatalities and 100%–200% more people being wounded than mass shootings committed without the use of LCMs.<sup>7</sup> From 2015 to 2022, the mass shootings in which four or more people were killed that involved a firearm equipped with a large-capacity magazine resulted in nearly five times as many people being shot per incident on average. LCMs are even more lethal when paired with assault weapons: the use of an assault rifle equipped with an LCM resulted in twice the fatalities and 81% higher numbers of victims with nonfatal gunshot wounds than in shootings committed with other types of firearms.<sup>8</sup>

Mass shootings are an American epidemic that no other industrialized country experiences at remotely the same level. The Gun Violence Archive reports that in 2019, 2020, 2021, and in 2022, there were more mass shootings than days in the year.<sup>9</sup> While mass shootings account for a small proportion<sup>10</sup> of shootings in the U.S. every year,<sup>11</sup> the profound psychological harm and

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<sup>4</sup>Collins, M. (2022, March 22). *[What's the difference?]: AR-15 vs M4*. Pew Pew Tactical. Retrieved November 15, 2022, from <https://www.pewpewtactical.com/ar15-vs-m4-difference/>.

<sup>5</sup> Heather Sher, “What I Saw Treating the Victims From Parkland Should Change the Debate on Guns,” *The Atlantic*, Feb. 22, 2018, available at <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/02/what-i-saw-treating-the-victims-from-parkland-should-change-the-debate-on-guns/553937/>.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> Christopher S. Koper, Assessing the potential to reduce deaths and injuries from mass shootings through restrictions on assault weapons and other high-capacity semiautomatic firearms. <https://drjkoeh.org/intro/fall%202022/Guns/Criminology%20Public%20Policy%20-%202020%20-%20Koper%20-%20Assessing%20the%20potential%20to%20reduce%20deaths%20and%20injuries%20from%20mass%20shootings.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> Gun Violence Archive. (2022, November 15). *Gun violence archive*. Retrieved November 15, 2022, from <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/past-tolls>

<sup>10</sup> UC Davis. (n.d.). *A few myths and facts about firearm violence - UC Davis*. Retrieved November 15, 2022, from [https://health.ucdavis.edu/vprp/pdf-other/FirearmMortality\\_MythsFacts2019.pdf](https://health.ucdavis.edu/vprp/pdf-other/FirearmMortality_MythsFacts2019.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> Berkowitz, B., & Alcantara, C. (2021, May 12). *More than 50 years of U.S. mass shootings: The victims, sites, Killers and weapons*. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved November 15, 2022, from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/national/mass-shootings-in-america/>

loss of life, coupled with the debilitating and long-lasting effects of these events, make it abundantly clear that mass shootings not only have a devastating effect on survivors, their families and friends, and their communities,<sup>12</sup> but have inherently changed the psyche of the country as a whole.<sup>13</sup>

Mass shootings involving assault weapons can be extremely lethal, and the death and injury counts of each mass shooting have risen in recent years. An analysis of mass shootings between 2009 and 2018 shows that in shootings where assault weapons were used, six times as many people were shot compared to those without them.<sup>14</sup> Research shows that banning assault weapons leads to a drop in gun massacres. In the 10 years the federal assault weapons ban was in place, gun massacres dropped 37%, and after the ban expired in 2004, gun massacres skyrocketed 183%.<sup>15</sup>

### **Prohibiting the Sale of Assault Weapons and Large Capacity Magazines is Constitutional**

Courts have repeatedly upheld state laws prohibiting or regulating assault weapons and/or large-capacity magazines. After *NYSRPA v. Bruen*, federal district courts in 10 states and D.C. have upheld state laws prohibiting assault weapons and/or large-capacity magazines. Furthermore, the First, Third, Fourth, and Seventh circuits have upheld state laws prohibiting assault weapons. It should come as no surprise that courts have upheld these laws, because a fair reading of *Bruen* practically demands such a result. In *Bruen*, the Supreme Court made it clear that the threshold inquiry for any law regulating firearms is whether or not that law burdens the right to self-defense.”<sup>16</sup> Research shows that laws prohibiting weapons such as HF3433 and HF3402 do not infringe on the right to self-defense, because people do not need to use such weapons for self-defense purposes.

Indeed, the NRA’s own database tracking purported armed self-defense shows that, in self-defense scenarios, the average person only fires two shots.<sup>17</sup> The NRA’s database aligns with what numerous experts also declare: that self-defense does not require large capacity magazines.<sup>18</sup> Accordingly, courts have found that large capacity magazine bans do not implicate the core Second Amendment right.

Even if a prohibition on the sale of assault weapons and large capacity magazines did implicate the right to armed self-defense, they would still survive scrutiny because they are “relevantly

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<sup>12</sup> Best, T. (2019, June 5). ABC News. Retrieved November 15, 2022, from <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/trauma-anxiety-ptsd-mass-shootings-affect-mental-health/story?id=63491970>

<sup>13</sup> Brady. *The mental health impact of mass shootings*. Brady. Retrieved November 15, 2022, from <https://www.bradyunited.org/reports/the-mental-health-impact-of-mass-shootings>

<sup>14</sup> Brady. (n.d.). *What are assault weapons and high-capacity magazines?* Brady. Retrieved November 15, 2022, from <https://www.bradyunited.org/fact-sheets/what-are-assault-weapons-and-high-capacity-magazines>

<sup>15</sup> United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary. (2019, September 24). *Studies: Gun massacre deaths dropped during assault weapons ban, increased after expiration*. United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary. Retrieved November 16, 2022, from <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/press/dem/releases/studies-gun-massacre-deaths-dropped-during-assault-weapons-ban-increased-after-expiration>

<sup>16</sup> See *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* 142 S. Ct. at 2125 (2022)

<sup>17</sup> See Claude Werner, *The Armed Citizen—A Five Year Analysis*, *Guns Save Lives* (Mar. 12, 2012), <https://perma.cc/QTL7-U8EM> (average of 2.2 defensive shots fired per incident from 1997-2001)

<sup>18</sup> See Declaration of Edward Troiano 10, *Ocean State Tactical, LLC v. State of Rhode Island*, No. 1:22-cv-00246 (D.R.I. Oct. 14, 2022) (ECF No. 19-3) (“I am unaware of any incident in which a civilian has Ever fired as many as 10 rounds in self-defense.”); Declaration of James W. Johnson ¶¶ 2, 30, 31, *Kolbe v. O’Malley*, 42 F. Supp. 3d 768 (D. Md. 2014), No.1:13-cv-02841 (ECF No. 44-3) (filed Feb. 14, 2014) (then-Baltimore County Police

similar” to historical laws, as required by *Bruen*.<sup>19</sup> For that reason, courts have concluded that large capacity magazine laws were similar to historical laws regulating certain weapons considered particularly dangerous.<sup>20</sup> Courts have likewise upheld large capacity magazine prohibitions on the basis that they are similar to historical laws banning weapons that were capable of repeated fire without reloading. At the time of the founding, civilians did not have access to weapons capable of firing without reloading, but as technological advancements made such firearms available to civilians starting during Reconstruction, states responded with prohibitions.<sup>21</sup> Since then, technology has continued to evolve to the extent that today’s assault weapons and large capacity magazines are leaps and bounds more advanced than those available during the 19th century. As such, courts have heeded *Bruen*’s call to use a “more nuanced approach” when considering “dramatic technological changes” in firearms.<sup>22</sup> Applying the more nuanced approach, courts have rooted their analysis of large capacity magazine laws in the 20th century rather than the founding era, and found sufficient historical basis to uphold them.<sup>23</sup>

## **Conclusion**

There were 9 mass shootings in Minnesota in 2025 alone, with assault weapons present in at least one of those incidents.<sup>24</sup> When civilians have access to these weapons of war, citizens of Minnesota are far too familiar with the consequences. Large capacity magazines were used in the Annunciation shooting last year,<sup>25</sup> and the perpetrator of the assassination of Speaker Emerita Hortman and her husband was carrying 3 AK-47 assault rifles.<sup>26</sup>

***The Minnesota House Public Safety Committee has the power to stop accepting these uniquely American tragedies as commonplace by passing a ban on assault weapons and large capacity magazines. These weapons of war have no place in the hands of civilians, and gun owners and non-gun owners alike overwhelmingly support this policy.***

***Brady is proud to support the HF3433 and HF3402. For the reasons described above, Brady urges the House Public Safety Committee to support the passage of HF3433 and HF3402.***

Sincerely,  
Daniel Sagrera  
State Policy Manager  
The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence

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<sup>19</sup> 142 S. Ct. at 2132

<sup>20</sup> *Oregon Firearms Fed’n, Inc. v. Brown*, No. 22-01815, 2022 WL 17454829, \*13-14 (D. Or. Dec. 6, 2022), Appeal dismissed, No. 22-36011, 2022 WL 18956023 (9th Cir. Dec. 12, 2022); *Delaware State Sportsmen’s Ass’n v. Delaware Dep’t of Safety & Homeland Sec.* No. 22-cv-951, 2023 WL 2655150 \*11-13 (D. Del. Mar. 27, 2023); *Bevis v. City of Naperville*, No. 22-4775, 2023 WL 2077392, \*10-16 (N.D. Ill. Feb. 17, 2023)

<sup>21</sup> *E.g.* Declaration of Michael Vorenberg 43, *Ocean State Tactical, LLC*, No. 1:22-cv-00246 (D.R.I. Oct. 14, 2022) (ECF No. 19-2); Act of Mar. 22, 1923, no. 130, 1923 Vt. Acts & Resolves 130; Act of Apr. 22, 1927, ch. 1052, 1927 R.I. Pub. Laws 256, §§ 1, 4; Act of June 2, 1927, no. 372, 1927 Mich. Pub. Acts 887, 888, § 3; Act of July 8, 1932, Pub. L. No. 72-275, §§ 1, 8, 47 Stat. 650, 650, 652

<sup>22</sup> 142 S. Ct. at 2132

<sup>23</sup> *Hanson v. District of Columbia*, No. 22-cv-2256, 2023 WL 3019777, \*15 (D.D.C. Apr. 20, 2023), appeal docketed, No. 23-7061 (D.C. Cir. May 17, 2023); *Delaware State Sportsmen’s Ass’n*, 2023 WL 2655150, \*12-14; *Bevis*, 2023 WL 2077392, \*12-14

<sup>24</sup> Gun Violence Archive, 2025 Mass Shootings: <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports/mass-shooting?year=2025>

<sup>25</sup> The Smoking Gun, Video Shows Annunciation Catholic School Shooter’s Arsenal, <https://smokinggun.org/video-shows-guns-annunciation-catholic-school-shooter-likely-used/>

<sup>26</sup> The Smoking Gun, Suspected Minnesota Assassin Reportedly Had Beretta, Three AK-47 Rifles, <https://smokinggun.org/suspected-minnesota-assassin-reportedly-had-beretta-three-ak-47-rifles/>

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy  
1 Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Emily Coveyou and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a citizen of Columbia Heights, MN, and a mother to a 1.5 year old daughter.

I am testifying today because school shootings (and mass shootings of any kind) are too common. I'm terrified for my daughter to enter the school system. I believe that we should not be terrified to send our kids to school for fear they would be shot. Additionally, my coworker is a relative of two children who were in the church during the Annunciation shooting. Not only did the mass shooting severely impact her niece and nephew - her nephew came home with shrapnel on his clothes and her niece was friends with the girl who was killed - but it also severely impacted my coworker's emotional state and sense of peace for her and her family. This type of tragedy is PREVENTABLE and our government should act accordingly to prevent it any way possible.

My experience leads me to emphasize that assault weapons are exceptionally deadly, both due to the number of bullets fired and the damage those bullets do to the human body, and should not be available for purchase. Guns like the one used at the Annunciation shooting make it easier to kill more people quickly, and I believe it's unacceptable for them to be on the market.

Assault weapons are exceptionally deadly weapons commonplace in mass shootings. In fact, state assault weapons bans are associated with a lower likelihood of an active shooter event. Assault weapons are generally capable of firing far more bullets, far faster than manual-action hunting rifles. In addition, each round fired from an assault weapon has a muzzle energy much higher than a bullet fired from a handgun. This means that each round of an assault style rifle inflicts greater damage to the human body than a round from a typical handgun—and these guns can fire many, many of these high-powered rounds extremely fast.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

All the best,  
Emily

Emily Coveyou

February 24th, 2026

Chairpersons Moller, and Novotny, Committee Members  
Public Safety Finance and Policy House Committee  
Minnesota State Capitol Building, Room 120  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Written Testimony in Support of Public Safety Bills HF 3433 and 3402.

Dear Chairs Moller and Novotny, and members of the committee:

As you deliberate on the legislation before you—specifically HF 3433, regarding semiautomatic military-style assault weapons, and HF 3402, regarding high-capacity magazines—I ask you to look to the leadership of the next generation of Minnesota voters.

In a legislative simulation involving hundreds of students from every corner of the state—from the Iron Range to the Iowa border—I authored a mock bill extremely similar to the one you debate today. Titled “*An act to ban the transfer and possession of semiautomatic military-style assault weapons and high capacity magazines,*” it passed with historic, nearly unanimous agreement:

- **The Model House of Representatives: 94 to 1.**
- **The Model Senate: 41 to 5.**
- **The Youth Governor: Signed and designated as top priority.**

When students from every corner of Minnesota—representing urban, suburban, and rural districts alike—can reach such an overwhelming consensus, the issue is no longer a controversial one; it is a settled one for the people who will have to live with the consequences of your vote.

When these students voted 135-6 to pass this ban, they weren't just voting on policy; they were voting for their lives. I urge you to pass HF 3433 and HF 3402 to protect both the youth who have already suffered and the future generations who are demanding change.

Respectfully,

Eric Ethen  
*National Youth Advocate; Former MN High School Page*  
Arden Hills, MN

February 23, 2026

Public Safety Committee Administrator:

I am writing to express my support for House File 3402, authored by Representative Brad Tabke.

This bill, which would ban magazines with a capacity of ten or more rounds, is a significant 1st step in reducing the potential for murderous gun violence in our state. There is absolutely no need for the average citizen to have access to these high-powered killing tools.

Our state has witnessed terrible gun violence over the last year and this bill is a beginning step in reducing the potential for even more violence and death.

Thank you,

Linda Engberg  
2900 Winners Circle Dr #407  
Shakopee, MN 55379

Dear Representative Tabke,

I fully support restricting access to both high capacity assault weapons and purchase or/and possession of magazines with ammunition. (House File 3402) Although gun ownership is protected by the Constitution, we must limit these murderous weapons of war and get them off our streets and out of our communities. This legislation is long overdue!!

Please and thank you for helping us get these common sense laws passed.

Sincerely,

Ruth Moser  
Shakopee  
2/23/26

February 23, 2026

Public Safety Committee Administrator:

I am writing to express my support for House File 3402, authored by Representative Brad Tabke.

This bill would ban magazines with a capacity of ten or more rounds - a significant 1st step in reducing the potential for murderous gun violence in our state. I see no need for the average citizen to have access to these high-powered killing tools.

Our state has witnessed terrible gun violence over the last year and this bill is a beginning step in reducing the potential for even more violence and death.

Thank you,

Sharon Neal  
2900 Winners Circle Dr #407  
Shakopee, MN 55379

**HF 3433 (Greenman)** Possession of semiautomatic military-style assault weapons banned, and criminal penalties provided.

I write to support the above assault weapons ban.

An assault rifle is the weapon of choice for many mass killers because it works with brutal efficiency. A single bullet lands with a shock wave intense enough to blow apart a skull and demolish vital organs. The impact is even more acute on the compact body of a small child, and countless pediatricians and emergency room medical providers have witnessed this horror.

In Minnesota we saw a mass shooting first-hand on August 27, 2025 at Annunciation School in Minneapolis as children, families and community members attended back-to-school church services. Two children, Fletcher Merkel and Harper Moyski, and the perpetrator died in the shooting. Thirty other people were injured: twenty-six schoolchildren and three elderly people from gunfire as well as a victim who sustained non-gunshot wounds.

An assault rifle is a weapon of war and has no reason to be available on the streets of Minnesota.

Anne LeDuc  
2200 Sargent Avenue  
St Paul MN 55105

February 23, 2026

Dear Members of the House Public Safety Committee,

As a group of mayors and city council members, we are writing to express our strong support for HF 3433, which bans the sale of assault weapons in the State of Minnesota.

In our cities – large and small – we see the consequences of gun violence up close. Our first responders provide life-saving care to victims while carrying the trauma of what they witness. Families are shattered when firearms fall into the wrong hands or aren't stored safely. Children's lives are altered in an instant when they have to hide under desks or see their teachers run in fear. These aren't abstract policy debates for us; they are lived realities in our communities.

The tragic loss of life at Annunciation Church and School in Minneapolis last year is a glaring example of the horrific impact assault weapons have on our communities. Sadly, that shooting could have occurred anywhere in our state. Assault weapons are designed to maximize casualties and the severity of wounds. While no single piece of legislation will end gun violence, Meaningful progress comes from sustained, cumulative action – and this bill is an important part of this work.

Minnesota has made important progress on gun reform in recent years, including expanded background checks and red flag laws. But we still have not done enough. In the Annunciation shooting, over a hundred rifle rounds were fired from a military-style assault rifle—obtained legally. The shooter used high-capacity magazines obtained legally. **Weapons that are designed to kill large numbers of people quickly have no place on our streets.**

Many of us are not only elected officials – we're also parents. We tuck our kids into bed at night, drop them off at school or daycare the next morning, and trust they will come home safe. Every family in Minnesota deserves that same peace of mind. That's what this legislation is about.

It is past time for Minnesota to join the many states that have acted to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. This bill is about protecting our residents, supporting first responders, and making all of our communities safer, not just for our own children, but for the generations to come.

As locally elected leaders, we stand together in support of this legislation and respectfully urge members of the Committee to vote in favor of this bill.

Sincerely,

**Mayors and City Council Members**



Mayor Tim Busse, City of Bloomington



Mayor Ron Case, City of Eden Prairie



Mayor Jacob Frey, City of Minneapolis



Mayor Kaohly Her, City of Saint Paul



Mayor Roger Reinert, City of Duluth



Mayor Rebecca Schack, City of Minnetonka

Mayor Amáda Márquez Simula, City of Columbia Heights

Council Member Sue Budd, City of St. Louis Park



Council Member Jenna Carter, City of Bloomington



Council Member Jason Chavez, City of Minneapolis



Council Member Aurin Chowdhury, Chair Intergovernmental Relations Committee, City of Minneapolis



Council Member Aisha Chughtai, City of Minneapolis

Council Member Laurel Deneen, City of Columbia Heights



Council Member Rachel James, City of Columbia Heights



Council Vice President Jamal Osman, City of Minneapolis



Council Member Linea Palmisano, City of Minneapolis



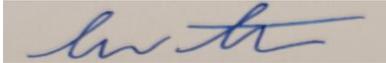
Council President Elliot Payne, City of Minneapolis



Council Member Michael Rainville, City of Minneapolis



Council Member Elizabeth Shaffer, City of Minneapolis



Council Member Soren Stevenson, City of Minneapolis



Council Member Latrisha Vetaw, City of Minneapolis



Council Member Jamison Whiting, City of Minneapolis

Dear Representatives:

My name is Caitlin Lang, and I am a lifelong Minnesota resident and we have 3 sons who attend Annunciation Catholic School. On the morning of August 27th, my husband and I rushed to our children's school after learning that a mass shooting had occurred while students were inside the church during Mass. When we arrived, injured children were being carried out and others were running from the building in fear. In a state of paralysis, I scanned faces—selfishly searching for my own children, and desperately trying to memorize the children I saw alive so I could call their parents and tell them they were breathing. I will never forget locking eyes with my youngest son's friend, his bloody head pressed against someone else's uniform shirt. A memory that doesn't escape or allow me to sleep at night. The hour we waited to learn whether our children were alive or dead—and the unbearable duality of relief for ours and devastation for others—has permanently altered us. Our middle son was injured by shrapnel from a weapon designed for war. That shrapnel still sits inside his body today.

I cannot reconcile that my siblings in the armed services (something I'm incredibly proud of)—an active-duty service member and a veteran who together have served four deployments, including combat in Afghanistan—have no physical injuries from a weapon of war, yet their nephew carries one from attending school. How did sending our children to Mass result in injuries consistent with a battlefield? Some days it feels as though we have been dropped at the base of Mount Everest without oxygen, gear, or protection. I am not asking for someone to carry us to the summit—I am asking for the essentials that allow families to climb safely: meaningful mental health support, strengthened school safety resources, and the most important, a ban on assault-style weapons and high-capacity magazines- a weapon designed for war. Please help us protect our children.

You have a chance this session to make sure no other children have to go through what mine have. You have a chance to show up as a lawmaker, not a democrat or a republican, to pass a bill that will create safer schools and communities.

I hope you will join me and other Annunciation families by spreading light. Please vote yes on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for reading my family's story. I'd be happy to find time to have a conversation in the future.

Caitin Lang

Testimony of Ali Bauler for HF 3433 and HF 3402

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy

1 Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Ali Bauler and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a resident of Apple Valley, MN, a wife, and proud mom of two young boys. I am testifying today because I grew up in a hunting family and still enjoy the hobby today with my own family. I support the second amendment and the right to own firearms and understand the need for them. However, I have also been impacted by gun violence. I do not see the need for assault style weapons or high-capacity magazines as they only cause immense harm in a short period of time. Being a hunter myself, I would never need this type of firearm or accessories to enjoy the hobby or to protect myself. I can only think about how a weapon like this getting into the hands of someone who shouldn't have it could harm my precious children or someone I love. The shootings are getting too frequent and close to home with the most recent being Annunciation. I beg of you to consider the harm these weapons can cause and HAVE caused our community. We can still have guns for rational purposes while protecting our children. I strongly encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Testimony of Angie Lillehei for HF 3433 and HF 3402

Volunteer for Gun Violence Prevention

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy

1 Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Angie Lillehei and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I have a loved one who was a survivor at Annunciation, a horrific mass shooting made much worse due to the assault weapon purchased prior to the shooting and the use of high capacity magazines. The destruction to those in that building is still unfathomable, even though I have heard many of the families' stories.

I am testifying today because:

My personal experience leads me to emphasize the banning of assault weapons and high capacity magazines. There is no place for weapons of war in civilian society. This has been proven time and time again in our country.

According to [everytown.org](https://www.everytown.org) (2/22/26): "Assault weapons and high-capacity magazines are frequently used in the violence that plagues our nation. From 2015 to 2022, mass shootings with four or more people killed where an assault weapon was used resulted in nearly six times as many people shot, more than twice as many people killed, and 23 times as many people wounded on average compared to those that did not involve the use of one. Some states and Washington, DC, have enacted legislation to prohibit assault weapons."

Ten states plus Washington DC prohibit assault weapons. Let's be the 11th state and take the step to prevent future carnage now.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402. Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

2/23/26

House Public Safety Finance and Policy

Dear Co-Chair Moller, Co-Chair Novotny, and members of the committee:

I'm a mom of 2 students that attend Annunciation Catholic School. August 27th has forever changed our family and our community.

The overwhelming terror I felt that day was unlike anything I had ever experienced. Seconds after receiving a call about an active shooter at my children's school, I sprinted five blocks, ducking under police tape as sirens blared and helicopters circled overhead, not knowing if the shooter had been stopped. My heart felt like it would explode and the tears were uncontrollable. My husband, who had been enroute to school moments earlier to deliver a forgotten item, found our 8-year-old at a nearby gym within minutes, but it took another agonizing fifteen to locate our first grader sheltered in the school gymnasium. Children were covered in blood. Teachers stood in shock, holding and comforting them. Classes were separated, siblings were searching for each other, and there were tears everywhere.

More than 300 children and the entire school staff were trapped in an enclosed church as a gunman fired 116 rounds in one minute. Some ran toward classrooms for shelter while others hid under pews. By grace, my children were physically unharmed, and we are among the fortunate. Tragically, this senseless act of horrific violence claimed the lives of two precious children.

You have a chance to make meaningful change to this session and make sure Minnesota's children have safer schools and communities. I hope you will join me and other Annunciation families by spreading light and voting yes on HF3433 (Greenman) and HF2402 (Tabke)

Sincerely,  
Brook Schlosser

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy

Testimony of Carla Gillespie for HF 3433 and HF 3402

Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny, and Committee Members,

My name is Carla Gillespie, and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high-capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a mother of two children who were born within a couple of years of Columbine. They had active shooter drills from grades K-12. Most parents have worries about their kids, but the fear of them being gunned down at school, or a concert, or church shouldn't be among them. Nor should lasting trauma from seeing a friend or classmate injured or killed by bullets that are literally designed to rip apart flesh. Or the anxiety they feel from the reality that our society has decided to accept all of this as normal. It's not. And you have the power to change that.

In my work as a gun violence prevention advocate, I once asked a pediatric trauma surgeon about the cascading trauma of these events. The concentric circles of grief from family to friends, neighbors, classmates, teachers, clergy members, fellow parishioners, first responders, witnesses, bystanders, surgeons, and nurses. I asked, "How do we deal with all of this PTSD?" His reply was, "It's not post-traumatic. The trauma is ongoing."

Research shows that bans on assault weapons prevent mass shooting events and fatalities. Banning these weapons and magazines won't prevent every firearm death, but it will stop many.

You have the power to make a new normal that is less terrifying for all of us. Please, vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Carla Gillespie

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Casey Martin and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a single woman; mother to few who never made it, auntie to many children in the Minneapolis area.

I am testifying today because:

I fear the safety of my loved ones everyday. There is no reason for my 4 year old nephew to have the fear he has about "bad guys coming and killing me and my friends".

My experience leads me to emphasize the danger posed to our children and teens.

Since 2015, each of the highest-casualty mass shootings has involved an assault weapon and a high-capacity magazine.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

February 23, 2026  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

To: Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Catherine Brennan. I am writing to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons, and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a resident of Minneapolis, and a volunteer with the Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. I joined after working as a youth services librarian at the Hennepin County North Regional Library from 2008 to 2018. During my service there, I heard about, met, worked with and played with seven children and teens who died by gun violence. Two were killed in their own homes from shots fired from outside. (Family members were present in these homes.) The eldest was 17 years, the youngest was 2 years old. I was playing with him in the library 10 days before he died.

Last fall, after the shooting of students and adults at Annunciation Catholic Church, I attended a forum at a neighboring church. We heard from a seasoned emergency room nurse, who had treated many of the children and adults who were shot that day. She sobbed as she articulated for us, with technical expertise, the effects of assault weapon shootings on the bodies of people. She emphasized how these are especially damaging and more lethal to children, the bodies of children being generally smaller than those of adults.

I do not know whether any of the children in North Minneapolis were shot by assault weapons. I submit that, if they had, any one of these shootings would have killed multiple people, given that the speed and force of these weapons far exceeds that of non-assault guns. **Guns are already the second highest cause of death of children and teens in Minnesota.**

After the shootings at Annunciation, we heard over and over again, “**We need to love our children more than our guns.**” State assault weapons bans are associated with a lower likelihood of an active shooter event. Assault weapons are not for hunting. They are machines of war, and none of us wants a war on our streets.

Make the future safer for the next generations.

I strongly urge you all to vote YES on HF 3433 and 3402.

Sincerely,  
Catherine Brennan

Please vote to ban weapons of war and high-capacity magazines

I have been a teacher since 2009. In that time there have been countless school shootings in the United States. However, there has been no significant change from the Minnesota or Federal government to increase safety in our schools or anywhere in our country. Why? Because the NRA and Republicans continue to use the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment as the justification for deadly behavior. Even after all the tragedies we have heard about, and even after it happened in Minneapolis this past summer, no one has been asked to change their behavior. We continue to allow people to buy unnecessary and deadly weapons that no civilian needs. The second amendment is not in jeopardy if we eliminate these weapons from the hands of our family and neighbors. There are plenty of other options to purchase and use if an individual wants to “keep and bear Arms” in this country.

As a teacher, the thought of what I would do if an active shooter entered my school is always looming. I think about how I would react and what I would do to protect my students. Yes, someone would still be able to enter with a gun even if weapons of war or high-capacity magazines were banned, but why make it easier for them by making these so easily available? States where assault weapons were banned have seen a reduction in victims of school shootings by 54%. It is time Minnesota joins these other states and bans war weapons and high-capacity magazines.

I grew up with a father who was an avid hunter and who took his daughters to the gun range. I have no issue with responsible individuals who want to purchase and own firearms for recreational purposes. I do have an issue with people who want to own guns that make mass casualties more efficient and easier. Someone's recreation should not be more valued than the safety of our citizens.

Please think about the people whose lives will be saved and our vote in favor of the bill HF3433 and HF 3402.

Sincerely,

Colleen Graf  
2637 101<sup>st</sup> Lane N  
Brooklyn Park, MN  
612-599-0899

To: Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy

From: Courtney Verhasselt

Date: February 23, 2026

Re: Testimony for HF 3433 and HF 3402

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Courtney Verhasselt and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, which would prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high-capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a Minnesota resident and have proudly called this state home since 2019. I am testifying today because gun violence is something my family has experienced firsthand.

In 2013, while I was in college, my father was at work at the Naval Sea Systems Command inside the Washington Navy Yard when a man killed 12 of his colleagues. My family and I waited hours, not knowing if he was alive while he and his coworkers barricaded themselves inside the building. He survived. Twelve others did not. Twelve families lost someone they loved forever.

Since then, our country has endured tragedy after tragedy with increasing frequency.

Last year, our state lost Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark to gun violence in their own home. Shortly thereafter, our community lost the lives of Harper Moyski and Fletcher Merkel, beloved children who attended school less than two miles from where I live. Each loss is unimaginable and heartbreaking.

Today, I am the mother of a 1-year-old and a 3-year-old. Like every parent, I want to believe they will be safe at school, at the park, and in our shared public spaces. That sense of safety feels increasingly uncertain in a country where weapons designed for rapid, high-volume killing remain accessible.

These bills represent a meaningful step toward reducing the risk and severity of gun violence. They reflect the will of the majority of Minnesotans who believe we must take action to protect one another.

I respectfully urge members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration of this critical legislation.

With deep concern,

Courtney Verhasselt

**From:** Cynthia Orange cynthiaorange@mac.com  
**Subject:** House Files HF3433 (assault weapons ban) and HF 3402 (High capacity magazine ban)  
**Date:** February 22, 2026 at 2:44 PM  
**To:** Ellen.McDaniel@house.mn.gov  
**Cc:** Michael Orange orange\_michael@msn.com, rep.brad.tabke@house.mn.gov, rep.emma.greenman@house.mn.gov

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Dear Ms. McDaniel,

I write as a life-long Minnesotan, a mother, grandmother, peace activist, and auxiliary member of local Chapter 27 Veterans for Peace to express my support for House Files 3433 (Assault weapons ban) and 3402 (High capacity magazine ban).

And—as the spouse of a Vietnam combat veteran who is all-too familiar with the carnage weapons of war cause—I write on behalf of our “PTSD” family. 55 years after serving as a Marine in the Vietnam War, my husband, Michael, still carries (and will always carry) the trauma from seeing too many bodies—some of them as young as 9 and 10 years old—blown literally to bits by these weapons of war.

As this committee is no doubt aware, and any family of a trauma survivor can attest, PTSD is a “trickle-down” disorder that can affect an entire family. The images Michael describes are so vivid and awful, they still haunt my dreams, and our daughter also carries the weight of her Dad’s trauma.

I weep for the families of the victims and survivors of mass shootings like the ones that occurred at Sandy Hook, Annunciation, and Ulvade, and Las Vegas. . . The list is too long to include.

Assault weapons and high-capacity magazines are weapons of war and weapons for law enforcement. Arguments to the contrary are vacuous, and I plead with this committee to do all within their power to pass these House Files.

Thank you,  
Cynthia Orange  
West St. Paul, MN 55118

## House Public Safety Finance and Policy

Dear Co-Chair Moller, Co-Chair Novotny, and members of the committee:

I'm the father of student that attends Annunciation Catholic School. August 27th has forever changed our family and our community.

On August 27, 2025, my wife called me at about 8:45 a.m. and told me that there was an active shooter at Annunciation. This was just minutes after it happened. She works at a nearby hospital and had heard the news over an EMS activation. I immediately thought it was a mistake - some error. This would never happen at this school, in our neighborhood. It didn't make sense. It had to be a mistake.

I left my office immediately, got in the car and headed to the school. I remember hitting every red light downtown on the way to the highway, and each time saying out loud "No." "Why?" "Please God, let Audrey be okay. She's tough. Take care of her." When I got on the highway, I began to be passed by a constant stream of emergency vehicles - ambulances, police cars, unmarked vehicles - and I knew it wasn't a mistake.

I parked a couple of blocks from the school and ran to an officer who was taping off the street. I asked her where the kids were and she replied that she wasn't sure. I could see she'd been crying. I headed toward Lyndale Avenue thinking there might be people there or someone to direct us. I saw a group of 3rd graders and some teachers I recognized in the parking lot of a fitness studio. I just stared at them. This still had to be a mistake. A mom that I knew came up and asked me if I knew anything and we just put our arms around each other.

Shortly after I arrived, my phone rang with an unknown number. I answered and it was my eighth grader, Audrey. I felt so much relief - and such guilt. A parent let her use their phone to call us and tell us she was safe. I thanked God so hard but I also felt sick by the way her voice sounded. I could just feel the hell that was unleashed in that church.

I made my way to the gym where families were being reunited. I saw parents and friends crying, hugging, and all I could do was stare. I just didn't believe this was real. We made our way into the school calmly and slowly. I passed one of Audrey's favorite teachers who was staring straight ahead, shaking, hands covered in blood. We made our way to the gym and passed through the double doors. I'll never forget the sound as I entered. Kids crying, shouting their sibling's name, screaming for their parents. Then I heard "dad!" and felt the tightest hug I could ever imagine.

I kept my hand on Audrey for the rest of time we were there. Waiting in the gym, up the stairs past the girl in white polo shirt - her left shoulder covered in blood, into the auditorium and through a check-out line the school created to account for everyone there.

We drove the short distance home. Sat in chairs staring out of our front window and waited for the rest of the family to get home so we could all be together. Knowing not everyone else would be that lucky. And Audrey told me everything that happened.

You have a chance to make meaningful change to this session and make sure Minnesota's children have safer schools and communities. I hope you will join me and other Annunciation families by spreading light and voting yes on HF3433 (Greenman) and HF2402 (Tabke)

Sincerely,  
Daniel Brady

October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

Dear Co Chairs Moller and Novotny and Members of the House Public Safety Committee,

This letter is written in **support** of HF 3433, Assault Weapons Ban and HF 3402 High Capacity Magazines Ban. Thank you for the work that has been done on this issue. Now let's get these passed!

Please understand that, as a mother/grandmother/ connected to the shooting at Annunciation, I continue to be confirmed...yet again, in my concern that so many super lethal weapons are available so easily to so many. My son in law is the principal at Annunciation. Two of the three grandchildren in that family were in the church at the time of the shooting - ages 11 and 8. Maria is in third grade and had the classroom seat right next to Fletcher Merkel. When she was finally able to get out from her hiding place under a pew, Maria ran down to the gymnasium and hid under a table. Maria hid so well and so long, that her parents did not know whether she was alive or dead for at least half an hour. Gabe, when he was able to stand and run out of the church, went immediately to the preschool classroom under the church where his three year old sister and her classmates were taking shelter "from a tornado". (Maya ,age 4, knows now that in fact they were hiding from a bad person with a gun who was trying to find and shoot them.) The middle school children helped to barricade the little ones behind large sheets of cardboard and piled heavy tables against the door. Gabe was one of the many middle-school children who carried two pre-schoolers each out to their waiting parents. He is 11. He weighs ninety five pounds. He had to carry children weighing about thirty -forty pounds each. He and Maria live daily with what they saw ...children hiding, screaming, blood running down their faces and little bodies. This was a place that was supposed to be safe for children and adults alike.

The stories of Fletcher and Harper and all the children who were injured are so much worse. Please take the time to go to the Facebook page of the Moyses or Rose DeBoer and read or listen to the testimony given by the people who lived through this. And listen especially to the testimony of the first Responders and the surgeons who treated these children. And then please listen again.

We can't identify every person who has a mental illness in time to prevent every incident of violence against innocents. But we can prevent people from having access to such lethal weapons. We do know how. Please look at the Maine law that the Supreme Court has allowed to stand. We can renew the ban on assault rifles. We can ban assault style rifles and the add- ons that increase the velocity of bullets and make the firing chamber refill automatically. We can ban high capacity magazines. Assault rifles and assault style rifles are not weapons that hunters use...not even for big game. These are weapons for killing people. We don't need them in our civilian population. And if we're serious about "backing the blue", I'll bet if we listened we'd find that the police would prefer that civilians not have these weapons. They have been used against police and first -responders. We don't need these weapons for our self-defense. We don't want them for hunting. We don't need them for our "collections." We don't need them as toys.

In addition to banning their purchase and sale, we could offer a financial reward to people who turn theirs in?

The slow deliberate painful healing of the lovely young Sophia is a cause for rejoicing...but should energize action, not dismiss it.

This might still be a courageous stand even though the deaths of Harper and Fletcher are fresh in our memories and many of the children wounded are needing ongoing care. What if you lose the next election because of working intelligently and energetically to ban these weapons? You will still have made at least and for sure a good and meaningful step to keep people safe. Power is not power if we refuse to use it intelligently. Power is useless if we refuse to use it only in order to stay in power in case there might be something down the road that will also matter. Please support these two bills and then please work across the aisle to make sure that this meaningful common sense gun legislation is passed in memory of Fletcher Merkel and Harper Moyski.

Let's move our feet!!

Thank you for listening,

Rosamond Kilmer Spring  
1004 13th Avenue North  
Saint Cloud, MN  
56303

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy  
1 Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Dan Linden and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a lifelong resident of the Twin Cities and have always appreciated the relative peace of this community. However that peace has too often been shattered by the reckless lack of regulation over the distribution of guns, with no regard for the public health crisis it has caused.

I am testifying today because, since I was a young man in junior high, I have borne witness to the countless horrific atrocities that have occurred in this country due in no small part to the availability of these tools of mass murder to the general citizenry.

My experience leads me to emphasize what the highest-casualty mass shootings have in common: use of an assault weapon and high-capacity magazine. Since 2015, each of the highest-casualty mass shootings has involved an assault weapon and a high-capacity magazine.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Respectfully,

Dan Linden, Minneapolis

2/22/26

House Public Safety Finance and Policy

Dear Co-Chair Moller, Co-Chair Novotny, and members of the committee:

My wife, Meghan, and I have three children who have attended Annunciation since pre-K. Our son, Ryan, graduated last year, and our daughters, Lily and Annie, are currently in fifth and third grade. On August 27th, they were in the church, hiding under pews as 116 bullets flew overhead—killing two classmates, injuring dozens of friends, and forever altering their sense of safety.

I will never fully understand the terror they experienced, but I see its impact every day. They attend therapy weekly. Nightmares are common. They duck below windows. They are wary of strangers. They think about death in ways children never should.

As long as high-capacity magazines and semi-automatic assault weapons remain easily accessible, families like mine will continue to live with this fear. As a father, nothing has felt more helpless than being unable to assure my children they are safe.

You have a chance to make meaningful changes in this session and make sure Minnesota's children have safer schools and communities. I hope you will join me and other Annunciation families by spreading light and voting yes on HF3433 (Greenman) and HF2402 (Tabke)

Sincerely,

Dan Manchon

Testimony of Diana Kirkland for HF 3433 and HF 3402

Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny, and Committee Members:

My name is Diana Kirkland, and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high-capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a mother of two who lives in southwest Minneapolis. I can see the steeple of Annunciation from my front yard and hear its bells from my home.

On August 26, 2025, my son and I attended his kindergarten orientation. His classroom was beautiful, and his teacher was warm. My son was immediately comfortable and excited to return for his first day of kindergarten the next day. I had a secret concern: I noticed that his classroom was the closest to a door, the first classroom an intruder would approach. I suppressed this thought. Less than twenty-four hours later, on August 27, my private anxiety became my neighbors' devastating reality. An assailant armed with an assault rifle opened fire on the school closest to our home. My husband and I found out about the shooting at Annunciation while we were still on the campus of my son's school from a Nextdoor alert.

A month later, we were attending our church as a family of four. A problem with a microphone caused a loud sound to ring out, and for a moment we feared it was gunfire. After church, I read about that morning's attack on a church in Grand Blanc Township, Michigan, once again carried out by an assailant with an assault rifle. I felt, and remain, livid that twice in a month, in the Upper Midwest, I felt a fear that should be crazy but in fact was the reality for my neighbors, in both my immediate neighborhood and our region.

Assault weapons and high-capacity magazines make shootings more lethal. Children and families in Minnesota should feel, and be, safe in their schools and houses of worship. HF 3433 and HF 3402 would help make our schools, houses of worship, and other public places safer from mass shootings.

I urge members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Dear Rep.Greeman

I am totally opposed to assault weapons, other than the military. Respectful hunters don't use them! There is no reason a civilian should have them. I support (HF3433) and (HF3402)

Sincerely,  
Diane Grinde  
Andover, MN

**Edward C. Lorenz**  
4236 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

February 22, 2026

Ms. Ellen McDaniel  
DFL Committee Administrator  
Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy  
Minnesota House of Representatives

**RE: Support of Minnesota Ban on the Sale and Transfer of Automatic Weapons and HighCapacity Magazines (HF 3433 and HF 3402)**

I write as a Vietnam Veteran and member of Veterans for Peace Chapter 27. I served as a medic in Vietnam. I will not write about physical injuries from weapons of war but from my experience in the 935<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment, a psychiatric unit that treated soldiers suffering from what we now call PTSD.

At the 935th I learned from our brilliant commander, an exceptionally well trained (University of Pennsylvania) psychiatrist with a commitment to training staff in the differences in psychiatric needs during maturation. He trained us in the aging research of Erik Ericson and what it clarified about most of our patients. I learned even by military standards, soldiers under 30 were young adults and that the youngest draftees were still pediatric patients. Except for the rare older soldiers, I learned most of our patients faced special challenges living with the violence of war and handling weapons that brought about that violence. After half my tour at the 935th, I then had the more traditional medical experience in a surgical ward at the 24<sup>th</sup> Evacuation Hospital, where we stabilized for evacuation soldiers with physical wounds.

Tragically, so many of the shooters, as at Annunciation, fall into the young adult or pediatric classification. In our country, with ubiquitous weapons of war, it is no wonder we have so many tragedies involving weapons of war. In case after case, school shooters have been younger, when coping mechanisms are not fully developed.

After Vietnam, as a student at the University of Chicago and then a professor, I regularly focused on what could lead to violence and especially how to achieve peace. It was during these years that I realized what I first thought was the unique mass violence of the Vietnam Era repeatedly appeared with perpetrators and victims too often being younger. Then in 2012 one of my young cousins was a victim of the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut. She, as

several other of the 26 student victims, was a special needs kid. My brother and I often talked of the unique horror that must have engulfed her and the other kids as they died of their horrible wounds – an experience like those of the adolescent soldiers I treated in Vietnam. I certainly understand law-abiding people who collect technically complex ‘things,’ including modern weapons. I don’t oppose weapons for hunting. But given the dangers of modern firearms, I cannot fathom why any sane person would oppose regulations to protect us from the weapons of war. Hunters do not want weapons that tear apart their prey. The blood and gore brought to our world by modern weapons of war, especially when widely available to troubled people because of our lax fire-arm regulations, plead for change. Even a single young child dying because of easy access to these weapons, is one too many. Legislators who support the ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines deserve great credit for the courage of proposing this legislation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Edward Lorenz, Ph.D.  
lorenz@alma.edu

Hello-

I am a Minnesota resident and constituent who works as a mental health therapist- I am writing to respectfully urge support legislation that bans the sale and transfer of assault-style weapons and high-capacity magazines in our state, as being discussed Tuesday.

These firearms and accessories are designed to fire many rounds rapidly and without frequent reloading. In civilian settings, their primary impact has been to increase the number of people harmed in shootings and to put first responders, law enforcement officers, and bystanders at greater risk. Limiting access to weapons and magazines that enable mass casualty events is a reasonable public-safety measure, not a punishment for responsible gun owners.

I want to be clear that I respect Minnesota's hunting traditions and the rights of lawful firearm owners. Many commonly owned firearms used for hunting, sport shooting, and home defense would not be affected by this policy. The goal is narrowly focused: reduce the lethality of shootings and give victims and emergency responders a greater chance to survive.

Other states have enacted similar restrictions while preserving lawful gun ownership, and research consistently shows that when shooters must reload more often, there are more opportunities for people to escape, intervene, or for police to respond. This is a pragmatic, evidence-informed step Minnesota can take to improve safety while respecting constitutional rights.

I ask that you:

- Support a ban on the sale and future transfer of assault-style weapons and high-capacity magazines
- Oppose attempts to weaken such legislation
- Pair this effort with safe-storage and enforcement measures that keep guns out of dangerous situations

Your leadership on this issue would demonstrate a commitment to protecting families, students, law enforcement, and communities across Minnesota.

Thank you for your service and for considering the views of your constituents.

Sincerely,

Ellie Gromberg

Testimony of Emily Benzie, MD **IN SUPPORT of HF 3433 and HF 3402**  
Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee  
Tuesday February 24, 2026

Dear Chair Moller, Chair Novotny, and Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Emily Benzie and I am writing to urge the committee to **support HF 3433 and HF 3402**, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing high-capacity magazines, respectively.

Since the federal ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines was allowed to expire in 2004, community after community across our country has experienced the horror and trauma of mass shootings perpetrated with them. It seemed inevitable that one day a Minnesota community would be added to the long now-familiar list. Then on August 27, 2025 the Annunciation Church and School community was faced with that same horror – one that absolutely no child, family, or community should ever have to endure. Unfortunately, it is too late to prevent what happened at Annunciation, but thankfully such mass shootings *are* preventable and it is not too late to keep another Minnesota community from suffering a similar fate.

Ultimately, we need the reinstatement of a federal ban on assault weapons and high-capacity in our country. However, Minnesota state leaders can make a meaningful difference right now in the face of federal inaction. We know that when assault weapons are used in mass shootings more than twice as many people are killed and almost 23 times as many people are wounded per incident on average.<sup>1</sup> We also know that states with restrictions on magazine size experience mass shootings at less than half the rate of states without restrictions.<sup>2</sup> A decision, even at the state level, to restrict access to mass shooters' weapons of choice will save lives.

Please use your power to protect Minnesotans from the terror and trauma that stem from mass shootings with assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. All Minnesotans, and our children in particular, deserve to have those weapons of war off our streets and out of our communities.

**Vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.**

Thank you for helping Minnesotans stay safe from gun violence,

Emily Benzie, MD  
Family Physician  
St. Paul, MN

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<sup>1</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, "Mass Shootings in the United States," March 2023, <https://everytownresearch.org/mass-shootings-in-america/>

<sup>2</sup> Louis Klarevas, Andrew Conner, and David Hemenway, "The Effect of Large-Capacity Magazine Bans on High-Fatality Mass Shootings, 1990–2017," *American Journal of Public Health* 109, no. 12 (2019): 1754-61, <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2019.305311>

Dear Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Emily Bierman and I am a resident of Edina, Minnesota and mother of three children. I'm writing to express my strong support for HF 3433 and HF3402, enacting a state-wide ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. It is a perturbing pattern that consequential common sense gun reform is attained only in the wake of horrific tragedy. Following Sandy Hook, Connecticut passed a flurry of gun reform laws including an assault weapons ban, background checks, secure storage and ERPO. These laws worked. As of 2023, Connecticut experienced a 54% lower gun death rate than the US average. The pattern appears across the country, from Republican led Florida post-Parkland to Democratic California. It is Minnesota's turn to act, and it is time that we ban assault style weapons. They are the preferred weapon of mass shooters and have the capacity to kill and maim far more people in a short amount of time than lower capacity, lower velocity firearms.

The weapon used to kill Fletcher Merkel and Harper Moyski while attending a church service at their school on August 27th in Minneapolis has no place in our community. Assault style guns, like that used at Annunciation, are the preferred weapon of mass shooters and have the capacity to kill and maim far more people in a short amount of time than lower capacity lower velocity firearms. Between 2015 and 2022, mass shootings where assault weapons were used resulted in nearly six times as many people shot, more than twice as many people killed, and 23 times as many people wounded per incident on average.<sup>1</sup> Incidents involving a firearm equipped with a high-capacity magazine resulted in nearly five times as many people shot, more than twice as many fatalities, and nearly 10 times as many injuries per incident on average compared to those that did not involve the use of high-capacity magazines.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, research shows that if congress had upheld the federal ban between 2005 and 2019, they could have prevented more than 30 mass shootings.

We can't undo the horror of what transpired at Annunciation, but we can prevent it from happening to more families. I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Emily Bierman

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<sup>1</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, "Mass Shootings in the United States," March 2023, <https://everytownresearch.org/mass-shooting-report/>

<sup>2</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, "Mass Shootings in the United States," March 2023, <https://everytownresearch.org/mass-shooting-report/>

**Testimony of Emily Walsh**  
**Law and Policy Advisor, Center for Gun Violence Solutions**  
**Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health**  
**In Support – Acts to Prohibit Assault Weapons and Large-Capacity Magazines**

**Tuesday, February 24, 2026**

Co-Chairs Moller and Novotny, Co-Vice Chairs Feist and Witte, and Members of the Committee,

As a born and raised Minnesotan and Law and Policy Advisor at the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions, I write today in my personal capacity in strong support of H.F. 3433 (prohibiting assault weapons) and H.F. 3402 (prohibiting large capacity magazines). These bills will work in tandem to reduce gun violence, particularly to address the horrific threat posed by mass shootings in our schools, places of worship, and public spaces.

***Prohibiting Large Capacity Magazines (H.F. 3402)***

Large capacity magazines (LCMs) are ammunition-feeding devices that hold more than 10 rounds, allowing shooters to fire repeatedly without reloading and making firearms more lethal during mass shootings. As of February 2026, 13 other states and D.C. have adopted LCM restrictions to protect public safety.

Research conducted over the last two decades suggests that state-level LCM restrictions, when fully implemented, are highly effective at reducing firearm deaths.<sup>1</sup> Firearms with LCMs account for nearly half of all fatal mass shootings and more than two-thirds of the deadliest mass shootings in recent history.<sup>2</sup>

The relationship between a lack of LCM restrictions and high fatality counts following mass shootings is clear: In the 69 high-fatality mass shootings (defined by study authors as intentional crimes of gun violence with six or more victims shot to death, not including the perpetrators) that took place between 1990 and 2017, attacks involving LCMs resulted in a 62% higher average death toll.<sup>3</sup>

LCMs also impact the number of people wounded in mass shootings: Mass shooting incidents with LCMs result in 100-200% higher counts of wounded persons, compared to shootings that did not involve LCMs.<sup>4</sup> Overall, evidence shows strong associations between LCM bans and significant reductions in the incidence of fatal mass shootings and the number of people killed during those attacks.<sup>5</sup>

Consistent with this research, H.F. 3402 would prohibit the manufacture, import, transfer, ownership, or possession of magazines that can accept more than 10 rounds of ammunition, with exceptions for law enforcement.

## ***Prohibiting Assault Weapons (H.F. 3433)***

While legal definitions of assault weapons vary across states, they are generally defined as semiautomatic firearms that can accept LCMs and typically have one or more features commonly associated with or designed for military purposes. Assault rifles fire with up to four times the velocity of a handgun round,<sup>6</sup> meaning that considerably more damage is inflicted upon the human body.

Nine out of the 10 deadliest mass shootings since 2016 have involved the use of at least one assault weapon.<sup>7</sup> A study of the 1994 to 2004 federal assault weapons ban found that while the law was in effect, mass shooting fatalities were 70% less likely compared to periods before and after the ban.<sup>8</sup> The same study also found that assault rifles accounted for nearly 86% of mass shooting fatalities between 1981 and 2017.

The higher velocity of rounds fired from an assault weapon, combined with their ability to accept LCMs, means that a shooter is able to fire more rounds that are deadlier<sup>9</sup> more quickly without pausing to reload—valuable seconds that can provide critical opportunities for intervention or for victims to escape. Prohibitions on both assault weapons and LCMs thus work in tandem to reduce the number of mass shooting fatalities and injuries. H.F. 3433 would prohibit the transfer, ownership, or possession of assault weapons, with exceptions for law enforcement, and—especially in conjunction with H.F. 3402—could help reduce gun violence in Minnesota.

## ***Support H.F. 3433 and H.F. 3402***

Minnesota has made important strides to advance gun violence prevention policies, but too many families have lost loved ones to gun violence, including from horrific mass shootings. By passing H.F. 3433 and H.F. 3402, Minnesota lawmakers can help prevent families and communities from experiencing the devastating loss from firearm deaths, the enormous toll of firearm injuries, and the lasting trauma associated with experiencing shootings. I urge you to support these bills and vote for their passage.

Respectfully,

Emily R. Walsh, J.D.

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<sup>1</sup> Koper CS., *Assessing the potential to reduce deaths and injuries from mass shootings through restrictions on assault weapons and other high-capacity semiautomatic firearms*, CRIMINOLOGY & PUB. POL'Y (2020).

<sup>2</sup> KLAREVAS L., RAMPAGE NATION: SECURING AMERICA FROM MASS SHOOTINGS (2016), available at <https://onerearch.library.uwa.edu.au/>.

<sup>3</sup> Klarevas L., Conner A., Hemenway D., *The Effect of Large-Capacity Magazine Bans on High-Fatality Mass Shootings, 1990–2017*, AM. J. PUB. HEALTH (2019).

<sup>4</sup> Webster DW., *Policies That Reduce Gun Violence: Restricting Large Capacity Magazines*, BLOOMBERG SCH. OF PUB. HEALTH, <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2021/policies-that-reduce-gun-violence-restricting-large-capacity-magazines> (2021).

<sup>5</sup> See *supra* n.1; see also Siegel M, Goder-Reiser M, Duwe G, Rocque M, Fox JA, Fridel EE, *The Relation Between State Gun Laws and the Incidence and Severity of Mass Public Shootings in the United States, 1976–2018*, LAW & HUMAN BEHAVIOR (2020), <https://doi.org/10.1037/lhb0000378>.

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<sup>6</sup> See <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26982703/>.

<sup>7</sup> These nine shootings are the following: Las Vegas, NV (2017); Orlando, FL (2016); Highland Park, IL (2022); Sutherland Springs, TX (2017); El Paso, TX (2019); Uvalde, TX (2022); Parkland, FL (2018); Midland-Odessa, TX (2019); Lewiston, ME (2023).

<sup>8</sup> See <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30188421/>.

<sup>9</sup> See [https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/interactive/2023/ar-15-damage-to-human-body/?itid=co\\_enhanced\\_ar15\\_4](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/interactive/2023/ar-15-damage-to-human-body/?itid=co_enhanced_ar15_4).

February 22, 2026

House Public Safety Finance and Policy

Dear Co-Chair Moller, Co-Chair Novotny, and members of the committee:

I'm a mom of a student that attends Annunciation Catholic School. August 27th has forever changed our family and our community.

My 13-year-old son was shot with a semi-automatic rifle through the stained-glass windows of our church while attending mass with his schoolmates, teachers, and staff at Annunciation Catholic School. Like many Minnesotans, I was on my way to the State Fair and considering which new foods to try when ambulances came streaming past me. Traffic was moving slowly, and I assumed there must be a terrible accident ahead. I did not yet know that my son was in one of those ambulances. I learned of the news in terrifying waves. When an unknown caller asked if I was my son's mother, my world stood still. The paramedic informed me he was shot in the arm. His vitals were stable. My son would survive.

Now 6 months later, the largest bullet fragment remains where it stopped, immediately adjacent to the critical bundle of major blood vessels and nerves leading to his arm. He was millimeters from losing his arm, if not his life. As an ICU physician, I am no stranger to disaster and I know the thin line between life and death. As an ICU director during the COVID pandemic it was my responsibility and my duty to make difficult decisions to prioritize safety and save lives. I implore you to fulfill your duty as leaders charged with prioritizing our public safety and take action to protect us all. You and your constituents are no safer today than my son was when he set off to school on his bike that Wednesday morning, with a helmet and a smile.

You have a chance to make meaningful change this session and make sure Minnesota's children have safer schools and communities. I hope you will join me and other Annunciation families by spreading light and voting yes on HF3433 (Greenman) and HF2402 (Tabke)

Sincerely,

Dr. Erin Wetherbee

## Testimony of Erin Zamoff in Support of HF 3433 and HF 3402

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny, and Committee Members,

My name is Erin Zamoff. I am a lawyer, a former state chapter leader for Moms Demand Action, and a current board member of Protect Minnesota. I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit assault weapons and high capacity magazines.

I have witnessed the pain of gun violence up close, both personally and professionally. In 2014, our dear friend and neighbor, Ruthanne Lodato, was murdered by a man who should never have had access to a firearm. Her daughters and husband miss her every single day. Our community lost a great neighbor, teacher, musician, and force of good. Gun violence reverberates throughout a community and leaves deep and lasting scars, scars I have also witnessed in my volunteer work with survivors.

I am submitting this testimony because I believe we are failing our most fundamental constitutional obligations. The Preamble of our Constitution commits us to “establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility ... promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.” When we allow a shooter to obtain an AR-15 and fire over 100 rounds into a church full of children, we are not establishing justice. We are not ensuring domestic tranquility. And we are definitely not securing the blessings of liberty for our posterity—our children. We are failing them.

The Supreme Court has recognized an individual right to bear arms, but that right is not unlimited. In *Heller*, Justice Scalia specifically referenced our “historical tradition of prohibiting the carrying of ‘dangerous and unusual weapons.’” Every federal appellate court that has considered the constitutionality of assault-weapon and large-capacity magazine bans has upheld them.[1]

There is overwhelming evidence that assault rifles and large capacity magazines are extremely dangerous:

- The federal government banned large capacity magazines (holding more than 10 rounds) from 1994 to 2004, during which time mass-shooting fatalities declined, only to rise sharply again after the ban expired.[2]
- Mass shootings involving assault weapons result in 6 times as many people shot and more than twice as many people killed compared to incidents involving other firearms.[3]
- When large-capacity magazines are used, the number of people killed increases by more than 60%,[4] and the number wounded increases by more than 100%.[5]
- Large capacity magazines eliminate the pauses for reloading that allow victims to escape and law enforcement to intervene.[6]

These bills are not about denying anyone their rights. They are about protecting the rights of our neighbors and our children to live freely—to go to school without fear, to go to church and pray without worrying that someone will fire hundreds of rounds through a window in minutes, with no possibility of escape.

The government has a core obligation to protect its citizens, a responsibility we are currently failing. I urge the members of this committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402 to insure the tranquility and blessings of liberty our Constitution guarantees and our children deserve.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

### **Sources**

1. Courts in the First, Second, Fourth, Seventh, and D.C. Circuits have all upheld assault-weapon and large-capacity magazine bans.
2. Lundberg et al., "Public Mass Shootings: Counterfactual Trend Analysis of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban," *JMIR Public Health and Surveillance* 2024; DiMaggio, Charles PhD, et al., "Changes in US mass shooting deaths associated with the 1994–2004 federal assault weapons ban," *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery* 86(1):11–19, January 2019.
3. Analysis of Everytown's Mass Shootings in the United States database, 2015–2022. Mass shooting defined as four or more people killed.
4. Klarevas L, Conner A, Hemenway D. (2019). The Effect of Large-Capacity Magazine Bans on High-Fatality Mass Shootings, 1990–2017. *Am J Public Health*.
5. Webster DW. (2021). Policies That Reduce Gun Violence: Restricting Large Capacity Magazines. Bloomberg School of Public Health.
6. Bartlett E, Roskam K, Fleisher K, McCourt A. (2025). Policies to Reduce Gun Violence in Minnesota: Research, Policy Analysis, and Recommendations. Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions.



Tuesday, February 24th, 2026

Minnesota House of Representatives Public Safety Committee

Co-Chair Moller, Co-Chair Novotny, and members of the House Public Safety Committee,

I write today on behalf of GIFFORDS in strong support of HF3433 and HF3402, two bills to ban assault weapons and large capacity magazines in the state of Minnesota. GIFFORDS is a leader in the movement to end gun violence in America. Led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, our team brings decades of political, legal, and policy expertise to the fight for gun safety.

Assault weapons are uniquely dangerous and have become the weapon of choice for those who intend to inflict great harm and perpetuate mass casualty attacks. Without meaningful federal regulations, it is incumbent upon states to regulate weapons of war to keep communities safe. Assault weapons, particularly assault rifles, were created for battlefields, not civilian streets. They are designed to inflict maximum damage on large groups of people in rapid succession. The availability of these weapons is fueling the startling trend of mass casualty events across the United States. Minnesota is all too familiar with this fact in the wake of the tragic mass shooting at Annunciation Catholic School last August, which took the lives of Harper Moyoski and Fletcher Merkel, and injured 28 others.

Large capacity magazines also facilitate mass casualty attacks by allowing for perpetrators of violence to fire repeatedly without the need to reload. According to an analysis of mass shootings between 1990 and 2017 from the American Journal of Health, there is a 62% higher death toll when high capacity magazines are utilized. The evidence, both lived by survivors and studied by experts, is clear: the more rounds a shooter can fire consecutively, the more gunshot wounds they can inflict during an attack.

Combatting the scourge of gun violence in Minnesota and across the United States will take cooperation and a multi-faceted approach. We are confident that passing these bills into law will save lives, and we urge this committee to support these critical pieces of legislation.

Sincerely,

Spencer Myers  
State and Local Policy Attorney, GIFFORDS Law Center

Testimony of Gretchen Damon for HF 3433 and HF 3402

Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense In America

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy

1 Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Gretchen Damon and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

Born and raised in Minnesota, I now live in St. Paul. My neighbor and good friend from college is the grandfather of an Annunciation student who was in the church when the shooting happened this fall. I will never forget talking with him about how upset he was about his granddaughter's close brush with death and how concerned he was that she would be traumatized long-term because of her experience. She is now a gun violence survivor. She is 8 years old.

Guns are the 2nd leading cause of death among children and teens in Minnesota. It is time to take action to keep our children safe wherever they go.

Minnesota ranks 14th in gun law strength – showing that their existing laws are working, but they need to continue improving. Taking weapons of war off the streets of Minnesota is something that needs to happen now.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Damon

St. Paul Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense

Testimony of Haley Lillehei for HF 3433 and HF 3402

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy

1 Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Haley Lillehei and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a native Minnesotan whose niece goes to Annunciation, where the recent school shooting was on her second day of kindergarten.

I am testifying today because:

The horror of hearing the details of the shooting at Annunciation and knowing my kind, joyful, intelligent, and silly five year old niece was there is something I can hardly put into words. I had the great luck and privilege to hold her tightly in the days after the shooting. There are families who never got to hold their children again. I do not wish this upon anyone. Assault weapons allowed the violence to carry out so quickly. As a community, we all deserve better.

According to everytown.org (2/22/2026): "Assault weapons and high-capacity magazines are frequently used in the violence that plagues our nation. From 2015 to 2022, mass shootings with four or more people killed where an assault weapon was used resulted in nearly six times as many people shot, more than twice as many people killed, and 23 times as many people wounded on average compared to those that did not involve the use of one. Some states and Washington, DC, have enacted legislation to prohibit assault weapons."

Ten states plus Washington DC prohibit assault weapons.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Sincerely,  
Haley Lillehei  
3346 Ivy Lane  
Mpls, MN 55416

Dear Ellen McDaniel,

Today I received a summary of a Protect MN meeting from my daughter, Jodi Anderson-Wolhaupter. In it she mentioned two bills coming up for passage, namely (HF3433) and (HF3402), which respectively deal with banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines. The damage done to the human body, especially children, by these weapons is devastating. Action must be taken now. Delays cost lives, and even one life is precious. This has particularly impacted Minnesota during the last eight months, acutely felt during the targeted attacks on the Hortmans and Hoffmans and the Annunciation Catholic School shooting. Jodi and her husband John live in the same district represented by Melissa Hortman and have worked with her on occasion. They were heart-broken upon the news that Mark and Melissa Hortman had been killed. In order to honor Melissa's legacy, they proposed a petition to name the MN State Office Building after Melissa. But it isn't just one district affected, indeed we all lost when the fabric of our legislature was ripped apart by gun violence. It is imperative that assault weapons be banned to cut down on accessibility. I know some would argue that mental health practices should be strengthened and new monitoring devices installed, but that is not addressing the cause. Please urge Rep. Greenman and Rep. Tabke to present their bills for passage. In the words of the song "Blowin' in the Wind," "how many deaths does it take 'til we know that too many people have died?" Our character, not our guns, should determine our caliber.

Sincerely,  
Jan Anderson  
Andover, MN resident and retired teacher

Testimony of Jane Martin for HF 3433 and HF 3402

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy

1 Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Jane Martin and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a retired teacher and sickened by the effect the active shooter drills have on students and teachers alike. I have been horrified by school gun violence since Columbine as well as by the lack of action by our government to protect the public. There is no room for military style weapons in the public square.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

TESTIMONY OF JANICE McCLEMENT for HF3433 and HF3402

VOLUNTEER FOR MOMS DEMAND ACTION

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members-

My name is Janice McClement. I have been a proud Minnesotan for nearly 20 years, living first in Ramsey County, now in Hennepin (Plymouth).

I am testifying today because I believe, that while we have made some progress with sensible gun legislation in this state, there is more we need to do. Banning assault rifles and the use of high capacity magazines as outlined in these bills would go a long way in making our communities, and our children, safer from gun violence.

I got involved with Moms Demand Action in June of 2023 after the first anniversary of the Uvalde school shooting when, again, nothing had been done at the Federal or state level to ban these weapons of war from getting into the hands of non-law enforcement or military officers. The fact that they had to identify some of the children by their clothing because their bodies had been so mutilated by the bullets that they were unrecognizable, broke my heart. After the tragic shooting at Annunciation this past fall, we all heard again about the extra lethality of the bullets fired from the assault style weapons that not only killed 2 young children, but also gravely wounded many others. I'm sure you've heard the testimony of the doctors treating these victims comment on the severity of the wounds caused by the severe damage the ammunition of these weapons inflicts on a body. Most Minnesotans agree that these weapons should not be in the hands of non-law enforcers or the military personnel that require their use.

Since 2015, each of the highest casualty mass shootings in the country has involved an assault weapon and a high-capacity magazine. From 2015 to 2022, the mass shootings in which 4 or more people were killed involved a firearm equipped with a high capacity magazine resulted in nearly five times as many people shot, more than twice as many killed, and nearly ten times as many wounded on average compared to those that did not involve the use of one.

It is time to put these common-sense restrictions in place in Minnesota.

I encourage members of this committee to vote YES on HF3433 and HF3403.

Thank you for considering my testimony and this important issue.

Janice McClement

Jeanette Vance  
5325 James Avenue S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Dear Co-Chairs Moller and Novotny, and Members of the House Public Safety Committee,

I am writing to you today to share my support of the following two bills:

- Ban the possession of semiautomatic military-style assault weapons, and criminal penalties provided - [HF 3433](#) (Greenman)
- Ban the possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines - [HF 3402](#)

The shooting and murder of two children, the long lasting impacts of gun violence in Minnesota including the murders of Representative Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark, and the shooting of Senator John and Yvette Hoffman in their homes have made it abundantly clear that there is no place for large capacity ammunition or military-style guns in Minnesota. My community has been devastated by the losses and the impact of the 116 bullets that were shot into Annunciation Church while children were praying. I do support legislation to increase mental health support but it is simply not enough to save lives. I encourage you to do the right thing and support these gun violence prevention measures for all Minnesotans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Vance

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy  
1 Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Jennifer Scott and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a resident of SW Minneapolis, one half mile from Annunciation School. I am a former resident of North Minneapolis.

I am testifying today because gun violence affects every layer of life here in Minnesota AND IT DOESN'T HAVE TO. I recognize that I, as a person living in the United States, could die indiscriminately of gun violence. I would leave behind two children under 13 years old. It doesn't have to be that way.

My experience leads me to emphasize that assault weapons are exceptionally deadly weapons commonplace in mass shootings.

State assault weapons bans are associated with a lower likelihood of an active shooter event.

Assault weapons are generally capable of firing far more bullets, far faster than manual-action hunting rifles. In addition, each round fired from an assault weapon has a muzzle energy much higher than a bullet fired from a handgun.

Each round of an assault style rifle inflicts greater damage to the human body than a round from a typical handgun—and these guns can fire many, many of these high-powered rounds extremely fast.

These are weapons made to destroy, and have no place in Minnesota.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Scott  
1000 W 46th St  
Minneapolis MN 55419

Dear Chair Moller and members of the committee,

My name is Joan Peterson. I live in rural Cloquet- previously a long time resident of Duluth. In 1992 my sister, Barbara Lund, was shot and killed by her estranged husband Russell Lund. That seems like a long time ago and it was, but the trauma and pain of her sudden death due to bullets never goes away. Memories of her are less painful now as time has passed.

Since her death, there have been hundreds of mass shootings committed by shooters with assault style weapons that are meant to kill as many people as possible in as little time as possible. That is the intended purpose for such weapons. My sister's shooter used a handgun. Her injuries to her head, and chest killed her at close range. Assault style weapons kill at longer ranges which is why shooters use them. They don't have to be as close to the victim to take their lives.

What have we learned after Sandy Hook, Uvalde, Gabby Giffords shooting, Las Vegas, Buffalo, El Paso, Parkland, Sutherland Springs, Aurora Theater shooting, Thousand Oaks, Synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh. etc. and most recently of course, Annunciation church right here in Minnesota? We have learned that innocent children, educators and citizens have been mowed down by weapons meant to be used in war. We have learned that the bullets from these weapons do much more damage to internal organs, tissue and bones once inside the body. And when those bodies are children, the damage is so much worse- so much worse that their bodies are often unidentifiable as was the case in the Uvalde shooting.

The high capacity magazines have multiple rounds so more people can be shot as the gun is aimed into a room or a church or at stained glass windows knowing that the bullets will ricochet around until they find a place to stop. We have sitting ducks in our classrooms and we never know who or where will be next. This is no way to live. The trauma that comes with mass shootings never goes away. We now have long term costs associated with health care costs, mental health, loss of jobs and productivity, loss of security and kids wondering if they will be next. I have spoken to kids about the trauma they have experienced. I hope you have too. I know families affected by these shootings.

I grew up in a hunting culture. My parents and brother were deer hunters. My husband was a deer hunter but does not hunt now. He knows that he does not need multiple rounds to shoot a deer. Indeed, multiple rounds would tear the meat apart and not be useful for consumption. So semi-automatic guns used for hunting are different, mostly with smaller chambers for bullets without the capacity to reload with another magazine. Deer seem better protected from bullets than our children.

In some of the mass shootings, where the shooter was stopped from reloading, such as at the Tucson shopping mall where Gabby Giffords was shot, lives were saved. I have met with Gabby Giffords on several occasions and have seen the long-term effects left from her shooting. I know the woman in Tucson who grabbed the magazine which was sitting on the ground that the shooter intended to use to kill even more people. Her name is Patricia Maisch. She is a hero. I also know Roxanna Green, the mother of 9 year old Christina Taylor-Green, who was shot and killed trying to visit with her Congresswoman Gabby Giffords. Imagine living with the image of the body of your 9-year-old daughter after being shot by an assault style weapon.

I think we all know that assault style weapons are not needed for hunting. That is why allowing fewer of them in our communities and our schools will save lives and stop the carnage. The majority of Minnesotans agree with me. Recent polling shows 62% of Minnesota adults supporting bans on certain types of assault style weapons. I have not spoken to one hunter who supports assault guns.

I urge you to support HF 3433 and HF 3402 to regulate possession of certain types of assault style weapons and for magazines to have no more than 10 bullets in a magazine. We know that lives will be saved with the passage of these bills. After the 1994-2004 assault weapons ban was allowed to sunset, there was almost an immediate increase in the number of mass shootings using these kinds of weapons and magazines. In fact, the 2012 Aurora, Colorado theater shooting was "effective" because of a 100 round drum magazine. In what world should a citizen be able to purchase and use that kind of weapon of mass destruction? I know the parents of one of the victims. Her face was blown away and it was hard to recognize her post shooting. No parent should have to see the destruction caused by such weapons and bullets. And, of course, that same year- 2012- 20 young children were blown away by an assault weapon in Newtown, Connecticut.

I have met several of the survivors of the Parkland high school shooting and Fred Guttenberg, father of 14-year-old Jaime Guttenberg, shot and killed in the Parkland massacre. If you meet with the victims and survivors and hear their stories, you will understand why many of us want you to support these bills.

Thank you for reading my testimony. I know that you all want to do what's best for public safety and for saving lives. Our children should not live in fear of being shot while attending church services or learning in their classrooms. They should not have to have blood spattered on their clothing from the victims who were shot as was the daughter of a friend who lives in Duluth.

Joan Peterson, Cloquet area; Co leader of Northland Brady/Protect Minnesota chapter



My name is Katie Lillis, and I teach kindergarten in Fergus Falls.

On January 15, 2024, the peace of our classroom was shattered by a "Code Red." Our schools received threats of shooters targeting windows. Out of an abundance of caution, administration locked down every building. At that moment, we had no way of knowing the calls were not legitimate. We only knew that there was a threat

My instincts as an educator shifted instantly from instruction to survival. Without knowing the exact location or nature of the danger, I began ushering five-year-olds into storage cupboards and barricading doors with furniture. Once they were hidden, I retrieved a baseball bat—the only defense I had.

As I tucked those small bodies into dark corners, the weight of what I was doing hit me: **I was actively causing them trauma to save their lives.**

We were fortunate. Our story did not end in a massacre, and every student went home to their parents that night. However, the "fortunate" outcome does not erase the permanent damage. Those children will carry the memory of that day for a lifetime. They will remember their kindergarten teacher standing over them with a bat, prepared to fight for their lives.

Five-year-olds should be learning their ABCs and how to share; they should not be learning how to disappear into a cabinet. Our educators should never be forced to choose between being a teacher and being a human shield.

The reality is that our fear was justified because of how easily accessible assault rifles and high-capacity magazines are in our society. While Fergus Falls was spared a physical tragedy, many students across this country are not as lucky. They come face-to-face with weapons designed for war, and they do not get to go home.

By passing these bills, you are choosing to prioritize the safety of our children over the convenience of high-powered weaponry. I urge you to support HF 3433 and HF 3402 so that no other educator has to stand guard with a bat while their students hide in cupboards.

Testimony of Kelly Erickson for HF 3433 and HF 3402  
Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy

Judiciary Committee Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Kelly Erickson and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a resident of Duluth, MN, and a parent of five children in two public schools and one university. I have been volunteering in gun violence prevention for over two years because gun violence is the number one cause of death for children and teens in the United States.

I am testifying today because I watched in the with the rest of the country as police failed to protect students at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX because they were outgunned by a shooter with an assault weapon. In August of 2025, a shooter with an assault weapon opened fire at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis. My experience leads me to emphasize that no one is safe anywhere when assault weapons and high capacity magazines are openly available to the public. From 2015 to 2022, the mass shootings in which four or more people were killed that involved an assault weapon resulted in nearly six times as many people shot, more than twice as many people killed, and 23 times as many people wounded on average compared to those that did not involve the use of one. We don't have to live like this. Our children don't have to die like this.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and 3402. Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation. Sincerely,

Kelly Erickson

Kelsey LeRoy  
11715 Emery Village Dr N  
Champlin, MN 55316  
MN Gun Violence Testimonial

Hello, my name is Kelsey LeRoy. I've been a Minnesotan my entire life. I've live in the North Metro for the vast majority of my 35 years. I am like many other Minnesotans – I love winter, I cheer for the Twins, I attended the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities.

In April 1999, I was in second grade. I had never participated in an active shooter drill because there was no such thing as an active shooter drill. By May 1999, that had changed. We did our first active shooter drill, although I am sure they weren't called that back then, in May before school was let out in June. I don't remember much, but do remember the teachers being scared. This was the first time they had likely had to think about what lengths they would go to to protect their students. I, like many others of my generation, don't really understand why that first school shooting wasn't the last school shooting.

I have vivid memories of the big ones:

- 2007 Virginia Tech – cell phones were new-ish and one of my classmates got a text about the shooting. Someone got pulled out of shop class because one of their siblings went to that school and the student needed to go home to be with their family while the waited for news on if their family member was alive.
- 2012 Sandy Hook – this one was little kids and I think we all thought that might be the breaking point? How can a society not choose to protect little kids? I was in college at the time, on winter break after a long semester. I remember watching the coverage and crying as the cameras panned to parents desperate for information about their children.
- 2018 Parkland – I don't remember watching much of the coverage day of, but I do remember the inspiring messages and activism the kids of Parkland inspired. They were amazing. They still are. They went through hell and came out the other side determined to fight for a better United States.
- 2022 Uvalde – watching the local police stand there while the gunman continued to kill kids was infuriating. I was 32 at this point and had lived in the shadow of school and mass shootings for almost my entire life.

I was high school friends with Brittany and Joe Haeg, whose son was a victim at Ascension last year. We were in marching band and drama together. I was at their wedding. Their

family will never be the same because of gun violence. Their son, David, has a traumatic brain injury that will likely never fully heal.

I'll be honest, I am not a hunter. My family doesn't hunt. I don't own a gun, I don't know how to use a gun. But I don't think that matters. I have been exposed to and impacted by gun violence all of my entire life. I remember the school shootings, and I remember the mass shootings at other venues. There are more mass shootings per year than there are days in the year.

There is nothing we can do to change our reality and our history. There is, however, something we can do to make the future better. Gun deaths are now the leading cause for child mortality. Guns are more dangerous than lead, than covid, than family violence, than hunger. We can change this. We can ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Bans work! In states where these bans are put in place, the victims of school shootings have gone down by 54%. We can do this. You can do this.

As a Minnesotan that has been impacted by gun violence her entire life, I encourage you to support and pass Rep Greeman's bill (HF 3433) banning weapons of war and Rep. Tabke's bill (HF 3402) to ban high-capacity magazines. These are two concrete steps we can take to build a better future for Minnesota kids and avoid raising another generation of children impacted by school shootings.

To Co-Chairs Moller and Novotny and Members of the House Public Safety Committee:

I am writing to express my support of HF 3433 Assault Weapons Bans and HF 3402 Banning Possession of High Capacity Magazines. I ask my representatives and all Minnesota lawmakers to do everything in their power to protect our community from experiencing more horrific gun violence tragedies through the passage of these laws.

Thank you for your service,

Kendall Austin  
1312 Douglas Ave, Apt 2  
Minneapolis MN 55403

February 22, 2026

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Kristi Moebeck and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HG3433 and HF 3402 bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a retired Academic Advisor from a Community College. I live in Maple Grove and am a member of the NW Metro Moms Demand Action group. I joined the group four years ago after a mass school shooting in Texas. The banning of assault weapons is the right thing to do to save lives, both for school children and adults. They are weapons of war.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Kristi Moebeck

Maple Grove, MN

Testimony of Kristin Johnson for HF 3433 and HF 3402  
Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense In America  
Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy

February 22, 2026

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Kristin Johnson, and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high-capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a resident of St. Paul and have friends living near Annunciation School in South Minneapolis. I am also a former Minneapolis Public School teacher who taught at Windom Elementary, which is just a few blocks from Annunciation.

I am testifying today because on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, Minnesota was changed forever.

My friend's house is on the block that backs up to Annunciation School in South Minneapolis. On that fall day, the beginning of the school year, she was by happenstance working from home. She heard popping noises outside and went to see what they were. Her neighbors also stepped from their houses. Gunshots? They questioned, disbelieving. Children screaming and feelings of dread. Someone called 911. They saw the shooter on a ladder at the back of the church. Seconds later, the shooting was over. The assailant dead, but the aftermath had just begun.

The shooting left damage in its wake:

- The **children** killed, their lives cut short.
- **Survivors** considered lucky but who now carry severe injuries and trauma.
- **Families** forever to worry when sending their kids to school or too afraid to do so.
- **Teachers and students** scarred by witnessing the violence.
- **Churches** and pews, where children prayed until bullets rained down on them, burning with memories of fear.
- **The community** adjacent to the church, traumatized by the audible screams of children and teachers suffering.

But those are only the most evident horrors. These tragedies have ripple effects. The neighborhoods convert to crime scenes of sadness where **residents** relive the nightmare and never see the zone of safety that they once called home. **Medical personnel** are traumatized after treating the young victims with wounds from bullets and shrapnel that could only be caused by weapons of war.

Firearms have become the number one cause of death among children in Minnesota; however, these deaths are preventable. This is great news, but we need your help to make it a reality.

Our kids, teachers, neighbors, and communities want to feel safe. With your YES vote on these bills, you can make this possible.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402. Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Kristin F. Johnson

Testimony of Lauren Thom for HF 3433 and HF 3402

Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense In America

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy

1 Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Lauren Thom and I am writing to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, which would prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

I live in Cottage Grove, work in Minneapolis, and my children attend school in St. Paul—less than 20 minutes from Annunciation Catholic School. I am submitting this testimony because:

- **Community Vulnerability:** No one should have to witness or experience the devastation of gun violence. The mass shootings of the last 20 years, many involving high-capacity magazines or assault rifles, have been deeply traumatizing to our collective psyche. While the recent shooting at Annunciation Catholic School did not involve a high-capacity magazine, it underscores how vulnerable our schools are. We must take preventative action to protect our children and fellow Minnesotans from the unimaginable damage these weapons inflict.
- **Prohibition Saves Lives:** Research confirms that banning these weapons works. A 2021 study found that the previous federal ban was associated with a significant decrease in public mass shootings, preventing at least 11 such events during its 10-year duration. Researchers estimate that had the law remained in effect through 2019, it would have prevented an additional 30 mass shootings, saving 339 lives and preventing over 1,000 injuries.

I urge the committee to vote **YES** on HF 3433 and HF 3402 to prioritize the safety of our communities.

Thank you for your time and for considering this vital legislation.

Sincerely,  
Lauren Thom



February 23, 2026

House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota State Capitol, Room 120  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Support for HF3433 and HF3402**

Dear Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota (LWVMN) is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.

In 1990, LWVMN adopted a position in support of a ban on the manufacture, sale, and importation of assault weapons. Following the most recent tragedies due to gun violence, our state must act to reduce deaths and injuries by firearms.

**Along with members of the LWVMN Gun Violence Prevention Group, we write in strong support of HF3433 and HF3402.** Banning the possession of assault weapons and large capacity magazines can help prevent deaths from mass shootings. Many Minnesotans have personal stories of how gun violence has impacted them, or have experienced it second-hand from traumatic events across the country. We can be the next state who shows our leadership.

Thank you for your service to the people of Minnesota and considering this legislation to address a major health and safety threat. **We urge your support for HF 3433 and HF 3402.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Streukens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sam Streukens, Civic Engagement Director  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

[sstreukens@lwvmn.org](mailto:sstreukens@lwvmn.org), Landmark Center, 75 W Fifth Street, Suite 315, St. Paul MN 55102

22 February 2026

Ellen McDaniel, Committee Administrator  
MN House Public Safety Committee

I am writing as a health care professional in support of HF3433, Assault Weapons Bans, and HF3402, High-Capacity Magazines.

I am a board-certified pediatrician and pediatric emergency physician. For 25 years working in pediatric emergency departments, I treated children and teens who were victims of gun violence. I saw what happens when a bullet rips through a small, fragile body. I saw what happens when a teen in despair turns a gun on herself. I heard the fear and the anguish these children experience when a bullet rips through their psyche. These are not images I or my colleagues ever forget. They are heartbreaking. And they are all the more heartbreaking because every one of them did not have to happen. These injuries and deaths are preventable.

There are many things we can and should do to reduce the harm from gun injury. None is going to eliminate the problem on its own. There is no single solution. Gun injury is a public health problem, and it requires a public health approach which is by nature multi-faceted. Some approaches to reducing gun injury cost money, and some will involve important debates around freedom and rights, all of which can create controversy. But one action that should be non-controversial is banning the deadliest firearms: assault weapons.

Many people choose to own guns, for a variety of legitimate reasons – hunting, recreation, protection. Assault weapons were not designed for any of those things. They were designed for war. They were designed to kill people, and to make it easy to kill people.

The mechanics of this are very simple – more bullets fired with more force cause more injury. And the epidemiology is also pretty simple. We know from research, including from when we had a federal assault weapons ban in this country, that bans on those weapons of war save lives. It really is that simple.

Since 2020, gun injury has been the leading cause of death for children in the US. Each and every day, an average of a dozen children die of an injury caused by a bullet fired from a gun. While banning weapons of war will not prevent all of these deaths, it will help prevent mass shootings like the one that occurred last year at Annunciation Church in my neighborhood of Minneapolis. I encourage you to pass HF3433 and HF3402 as a way to help ensure my soon to be born grandchild can grow up in a world where preventable gun injury is not the biggest threat to their life.

Marc Gorelick, MD, MSCE, FAAP  
4601 Humboldt Avenue South  
Minneapolis MN 55419

**Dear Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members**

**Re: HF 3433 and HF 3402**

My name is Mark Knutson, I am a United States citizen and live in Duluth and am a voter in Minnesota. I am writing to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402. Those bills would prohibit the transfer, possession and ownership of assault weapons, and would also prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

There repeatedly has been gun violence in Duluth, as there has been throughout the state. That has affected me and my family.

The dangers of such weapons and magazines are not only from adult owners of them. There was one time when a six year old boy of a neighbor of mine found a pistol in his house that had been hidden by his father. He took it outside and showed it to his friends. We all know that children can unintentionally shoot others with firearms. We also know that adults and children can intentionally shoot others, and shooting with an assault weapon can lead to a brutal massacre, especially with high capacity magazines. Even if trained adults are careful with their assault weapons, they can cause brutal deaths and injuries to multiple people when others use them.

I had a brother in the Twin Cities who had mental illness and had hunting guns. We were afraid that he would use them on people. They finally were taken away by him and held by the police. If he had an assault gun, the risk and fear would have been even higher.

I have been around peaceful demonstrations, and in peaceful demonstrations in Minnesota, and some of the other people there have been carrying assault weapons. They were there for the purpose of intimidation. However, unknown people with unknown agendas and perhaps with mental illness or mental breakdowns, could shoot many people all too easily and tragically. There is no good reason to have assault weapons, especially in public. They certainly are not there to protect the owners from being attacked by others. I

have seriously worried about one of those with an assault weapon massacring others in those situations. Of course, if there is a partisan divide and if both sides carry assault weapons, the risk rises exponentially with more people, with unknown agendas and mental states.

I have a 12 gauge hunting shotgun with shells stored separately. It is much more than adequate to protect my family and my house and I do not ever expect to have to use it for that. Such a shotgun or a hunting rifle or a legal handgun can provide whatever protection a person may think they might need, although we all know that the chance of needing to protect your home and family start nonexistent risks. And assault gun only adds to risks to others without adding protection, especially with large magazines.

I ask members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402. Thank you for considering this from me. Mark

Dear Chair Moller and members of the committee,

This has been a hard year for me. With the violent shootings of our state legislators, the children praying at church/school and the killing of Renee Goode and Alex Pretti – I am reminded of what happened to my family in Grand Rapids, MN in June 1991. Our daughter was kidnapped, raped and murdered by two men with two guns. The guns were hand guns, but the loss of a loved one by gun violence is painful, no matter the weapon.

These weapons of war are made with one purpose – to kill many people in an extremely short amount of time. Aside from a war zone, I can think of no other place they should be allowed.

I acknowledge banning them will not stop all gun violence. We need to approach it from many angles. This is a good start. I also support allocating money to schools and mental health programs to address underlying causes of gun violence.

We must attack this devastating problem on all fronts.

Thank you for hearing my voice.

Mary Streufert

Duluth, Minnesota

Dear Co-Chairs Moller and Novotny and Members of the House Public Safety Committee,

I am writing to you not only as a high school history teacher, but as a mother of three, a responsible gun owner, and a member of a community that has felt the ripple effects of school gun violence. I urge you to support HF 3433, which would ban the possession of semiautomatic military-style assault weapons and establish criminal penalties, and HF 3402, which would ban the possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines.

Every day, I stand in front of a classroom filled with young people and teach them about the founding principles of our nation—liberty, responsibility, and the role of government in our daily lives. I firmly believe that constitutional rights come with civic responsibilities. As a gun owner myself, I understand the importance many Americans place on lawful firearm ownership for hunting, sport, and self-defense. Nothing in these bills prevents responsible gun ownership. Rather, they address weapons and accessories designed to maximize casualties in the shortest possible time.

As a teacher, I feel a profound responsibility for the young people in my classroom. But as a mother, the fear is even more visceral. Every morning, I pack lunches, sign permission slips, remind my children about homework—and then I send them into a world where “active shooter drill” is a normal part of their education. I watch them walk into their school building and, for a split second, I have to push away a thought no parent should ever have: Will they come home safe today? That is not freedom. That is not the childhood we want for our children.

Large-capacity magazines and military-style assault weapons are repeatedly used in the most devastating mass shootings because they enable a shooter to fire many rounds quickly without reloading. Limiting access to these tools of mass harm is a reasonable, evidence-based step that respects lawful gun ownership while prioritizing public safety.

In my classroom, I teach my students that our system of government is designed to respond to the needs of the people. The American story is one of adapting laws when circumstances demand it—whether through civil rights legislation, public safety reforms, or other measures intended to protect communities.

After the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in 1911 claimed 146 lives, lawmakers enacted sweeping workplace safety reforms that transformed labor standards across the country. Following the assassinations and organized crime violence of the early 20th century, Congress passed the National Firearms Act of 1934 to regulate particularly dangerous weapons. After the attacks of September 11, 2001, our government created the Transportation Security Administration and passed broad security legislation to address vulnerabilities in air travel and national defense. In the wake of deadly airline crashes in the 1950s and 60s, Congress strengthened federal oversight of aviation safety. Even the Civil Rights Act of 1964 gained critical momentum after the violence in Birmingham shocked the conscience of the nation.

Supporting HF 3433 and HF 3402 is consistent with that tradition.

I ask you to act with courage and conviction. Protect our schools. Protect our communities. Show our children that their safety matters more than political gridlock.

Thank you for your service and for considering my perspective.  
Sincerely,

Megan Gosda  
High School History Teacher and Parent

Judiciary Committee Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Melody Bierman and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402.

I live in Northfield MN, and my past employment has included years as a preschool teacher. I have two daughters who are also teachers (one who teaches in the shadow of Sandy Hook), and a spouse that has been a professor and an academic administrator. Conversations around the dinner table too often have been about violence on school grounds, and these nightmare conversations most often center around military style weapons. These guns are unnecessary in civil society. It is our collective responsibility to step up and keep these weapons of war off our streets.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank You,

Melody Bierman  
Northfield MN

February 24, 2026

Co-Chair Kelly Moller  
Co-Chair Paul Novotny  
Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives

**RE: Support HF3433 and HF3402 – Ban possession of semiautomatic military-style assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines**

Dear House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee members,

The undersigned are retired Minnesota County Attorneys with **more than 100 years of combined service** as elected felony prosecutors. We have been **responsible for the prosecution of hundreds of homicides** — some resulting from the use of semi-automatic military-style assault weapons, as well as other weapons utilizing large-capacity ammunition weapons.

**We stand united in support of legislation this year that will ban assault weapons and large-capacity magazines.** We leave it to the Legislature to work out specific constitutionally sound language. But the deaths resulting from the use of such weapons is unacceptable — and must stop now.

We have been elected — most of us numerous times — from jurisdictions urban, rural and suburban throughout Minnesota. We come from Democratic, Republican and Independent backgrounds. **This cause is not about politics but, rather, about public safety, and saving lives.**

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Freeman

Mike Freeman, retired Hennepin County Attorney  
Susan Gaertner, retired Ramsey County Attorney  
James Backstrom, retired Dakota County Attorney  
Molly Hicken, retired Cook County Attorney  
Tony Palumbo, retired Anoka County Attorney  
Mark Rubin, retired St. Louis County Attorney  
Mark Ostrem, retired Olmsted County Attorney

February 22, 2026

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members:

My name is Michele Roepke and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a retired Maple Grove, MN resident, born and raised in Minnesota. I strongly believe that assault weapons should be banned. There is no need for ownership of any kind of assault weapons.

I am testifying today because my heart breaks every time there is a killing with an assault weapon, especially when children lose their lives. I am a volunteer member of the NW Metro Group of Mom's Demand Action – MN for gun sense in American.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Michele Roepke

Maple Grove, MN

February 22, 2026

Dear Members of the Public Safety Committee,

My name is Mike Madden. I served in the United States Air Force, and USAF Reserve, from 1973-78. My first duty station was Eglin AFB in Florida. I finished my enlistment with the 934th Tactical Airlift Group at MSP International Airport.

I write in favor of a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. There is not a single strategy that will prevent mass shootings, but a such a ban will certainly make them less deadly.

Weapons of war have no place on the streets of America. I support HF 3434 and HF 3433.

Sincerely,

Mike Madden

1768 Iglehart Avenue

Saint Paul, MN

To Gov. Walz and the Honorable Members of the Minnesota Legislature,

We are writing as a collective of healers - psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, body workers, mental health aides, psychiatrists, nurse practitioners, counselors, physician assistants, art therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, school psychologists, case managers, and more. As people who care for the mental health and wellbeing of Minnesotans, we are urging you to come together in a special legislative session to pass a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines as an initial step to address the public health crisis of gun violence in the state of Minnesota.

We are inspired by the collective action of Minnesota Physicians and Faith Leaders and join our voices with theirs in demanding that more be done to address gun violence in Minnesota. Our collective's specialty is working from holistic perspectives - biological, psychological, social, and spiritual. We know the trauma of gun violence is a solvable problem. We have seen it done across the globe, and we need you to join us in the belief that none of us need to live in fear of another senseless gun death.

We are all victims of the level of gun violence in our cities, state, and country and we reject that this is a normal way to live. We stand together to say that inaction continues to perpetuate collective trauma and as healing professionals, we demand change. In our roles, we support those who are experiencing the most acute trauma of gun violence, like the students and caregivers at Annunciation or those grappling with the suicide of a loved one. We sit with people every day who are experiencing the fear of dropping their children off at school, being in crowds, and experiencing hypervigilance, tracking exits in spaces for fear of an active shooter. We experience the vicarious trauma of these stories while simultaneously holding our own stories of the impact of gun violence in our lives.

While we are helpless to change the laws, we are united in the truth that we are not powerless.

For years we have heard representatives state their belief that gun violence is due to mental health problems while at the same time reducing funding and avoiding questions about banning weapons of war. Whether the act of gun violence is self-inflicted or a tragedy like Annunciation, the ripple effects are massive and none of us are left untouched by the wake of gun violence.

It is inaccurate and irresponsible to suggest that mental health interventions alone can prevent gun violence, especially when military-style weapons remain legally available. **We reject being used as a substitute for serious legislative action on gun violence.** We do not accept the burden of preventing shootings and helping people heal from the after effects, while lawmakers refuse to act on assault weapons. We also hold the reality that people with mental health challenges are more likely to be targets of gun violence, not perpetrators. Mental health services are not an alternative to common-sense gun laws. We call on legislators to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines now.

We echo our colleagues from faith traditions. We are here to clear up a serious confusion: our job, as people in healing professions, is to offer psychological support, resources, and somatic

strategies to move trauma through the body and recommend ideas, especially as they relate to mental health. Your job, as our elected officials, is to make policy changes. It is a fundamental moral responsibility of any civil society to protect its most vulnerable members. Yet, once again, even after the recent tragedy at Annunciation Church and School and the staggering amount of gun violence in Minneapolis the following week, we see no legislative commitment to call for a special session despite pleas from parents and medical professionals in the aftermath of these events.

We agree that mental health is a part of the picture, and we ask that, in that vein, efforts be made to fully fund and expand access to resources. We know that data from other countries is clear that while mental health rates are steady, the rates of gun violence are not. Countries with stricter gun laws have demonstrably lower rates of firearm-related deaths. This is not just a mental health issue, it is a policy issue.

We stand with the LGBTQIA+ community and particularly the Trans community who are being unfairly targeted in the narrative around acts of gun violence. We know that exclusion and bias can increase the risk of suicide, and ask that legislators use responsible language and accurate data when discussing gun violence.

**In closing, we ask that you:**

- Convene a special legislative session immediately to pass a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines in Minnesota.
- Reject the false equivalency between mental health services and gun policy. Public health demands both, and mental health care cannot be used to delay or replace necessary firearm regulation.
- Fully fund comprehensive, community-based mental health services across the state, particularly in schools, underserved communities, and those disproportionately impacted by gun violence.

Gun violence is both an epidemic and a public health crisis. We ask you to do your part to reduce the collective trauma while we continue to do ours for collective healing.

Sincerely,

Aaron Elliott, MSW-LGSW, LADC  
Aaron Kennell, MSW, LGSW  
Abbey Shackleton, esthetician  
Abbey Truh, RN-BSN  
Abbie Diehl, MSW, LICSW  
Abby Fink LPCC LADC  
Abigail Hillyer, MA, Mental Health Therapist  
Abigail Riley MA MFT  
Abigail Ruoro MSW, LGSW  
Addy Simon, MS Child-focused Therapist  
Adelaide Nelson, LGSW  
Adriana Quadhamer, MSE  
Adrienne Hernandez, MS School Counseling  
Alea Johnson LICSW  
Alecia Viera, PsyD, LP  
Alena Rakitina, NCC, MS  
Alex Kewitt, BCST  
Alex Robison, MSW, LICSW  
Alexander Calderone, MD  
Alexandra Georgakas, MS  
Alexandra Holt, MA, LPCC  
Alexandra Kuch, M.A., CCC-SLP  
Alexandra Smith, MA, LPCC  
Alexis Anttila, MA, LMFT  
Alexis Greeves, MA, LPCC, RPT-S  
Alexis Peterson, MSW Student  
Alice Journey, retired Licensed Psychologist  
Alie Kooima, MPH, Area Director  
Alison Bormann, MD  
Alison Campbell, LICSW, MSW  
Alison Hawkinson, PsyD, LP  
Alison Hernandez, LICSW  
Alison McKernan, MSW, LICSW  
Alissa Aune, MA, LMFT  
Allison Bjork MSW, LICSW  
Allison Burns, MA, LMFT  
Allison Jensen, Tutor, SPPS  
Allison Kassen DDS  
Allison McCarthy, LICSW  
Allison Needham, LMFT  
Allison Peterson, MA, LP, PMH-C  
Allison Richards, PhD, LP  
Allison Siroky, PhD, LP  
Allison Vandenberg-Daves, LGSW, MSW  
Aly Webster, M.Ed, LPCC  
Alyssa Gamlin, MA, LPC  
Alyssa Gilbertson MSW, LICSW  
Alyssa Greene, LPCC  
Alyssum Anderson LMFT

Amanda Burger, MA, LPCC  
Amanda Dunn, LMFT  
Amanda Kottenstette  
Amanda Nicklay, MSW, LGSW  
Amanda Queitzsch, BS, Clinical Research  
Amanda Thompson MA,LMFT  
Amanda Tieri, MSW, LICSW  
Amber Dahl, MA, LPCC  
Amber G Rusch, LPC  
Amber Vroman, LSW  
Ambriel Lopez, LMFT  
Ambryn Melius, LPCC, BC-DMT  
Amee Christensen, LMFT  
Ampersand Rhoda, BSW  
Amy Dols MA LPCC LADC  
Amy Elverum, Counselor, M.Ed,Ed.S  
Amy Engelhard, LMFT  
Amy Froiland-Parada, LICSW  
Amy Gold, LMFT  
Amy Grossman MSW LICSW  
Amy Kephart LICSW  
Amy Kephart MSW/ LICSW  
Amy Kephart, MSW, LICSW  
Amy Kuretsky, L.Ac  
Amy Scott, LMFT  
Ana Abugattas, LMFT  
Anabella Walser  
Anastasia Glasser, MSW, LGSW  
Andi Rahm, Daughter, sister, wife, mother,  
substitute teacher and LPCC  
Andrea Ciccolini, MSW, LGSW  
Andrea Dorado, LICSW  
Andrea E. Grey MSW LICSW  
Andrea Garcia Malledo, MA  
Andrea Hansen, JD, MA, Licensed School  
Counselor  
Andrea Konz MS CCC-SLP  
Andrea Lucca, LICSW  
Andrea Schroeder, MS, LPC, LPCC  
Andrea Zuellig, Ph.D, LP  
Andrew Hoistad, Pre-Licensed Therapist  
Andrew McFarland, MA  
Andria Davis, OTR/L  
Anesh Patel PsyD, LP  
Anganette McBryde APRN(retired)Child  
Psychiatry  
Angela Abdo, LPCC  
Angela Adams, MA LPCC  
Angela Boyd, MA, MSW

Angela Carroll, LMT, CMT, CYT  
Angela Cowan, MSW, LICSW  
Angela Dirks, MA, ATR, MA, Pre-Licensed  
Mental Health Therapist  
Angela Goens, MS, RD, LD  
Angela Lauer-Schaepfi, PhD  
Angela Lobe, LMFT  
Angela Peper, DO  
Angelica Belko, MA, LAMFT  
Angelina Lee, MA LMFT  
Angie Ellsworth, MS, LSW, LSC  
Angie Gwiazdon Volding MSE, LMFT  
Angie Kub, MA, LMFT  
Angie Lillehei, RN, MPH, PhD  
Anika Walstrom, M.Ed., LPCC  
Anjali Johnson APRN CNP  
Ann DePaolis-Jones RN  
Ann L. Schrooten M.M.  
Ann M. Conrad, M.S., LPCC  
Ann-Marie Barrett, MS, Clinical Psychology  
Doctoral Candidate  
Anna Barlage, MA, LMFT  
Anna Dowson, MS, LMFT  
Anna Ferdelman, LPC  
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Anna Fox, MA, LAMFT  
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Madison Massoth, MSW, LICSW  
Madison Trygestad, MSW, LICSW  
Maggie Evans, LPCC, ATR-BC  
Maggie Patel, LICSW  
Maggie Quinlan  
Maggie Swenson, MA  
Maggie Wilken, MSW, LICSW, LCSW  
Maggie Williams, Co-Founder  
Maia Jackson, MSW, LICSW  
Maja Smedberg, LICSW  
Malinda King, MA, LPCC  
Mallary West, DO  
Mandy (Amanda) Wannarka, LICSW  
Mandy Engstrom, MD  
Mara Limbeck, MSW, LICSW  
Mara Pease, PsyD, LP  
Marcia Jensen, PhD, LP  
Margaret Kolden MS, EdS  
Margaret Moe, PsyD, LP  
Marguerite Ohrtman, EdD, LPCC, NCC, LSC, ACS  
Maria Andersen Keeler, LMFT  
Maria Andrew, Art Therapy Intern  
Maria Guidarelli MSW, LGSW  
Maria Ortiz PT  
Marie Michael, SEP  
Marie Van LGSW  
Mariel McMarlin, LICSW  
Marielle Demarais, PhD, LP  
Marilyn Galloway  
Marin Thuen, Licensed School Counselor  
Marinda Kimmel, MSE, LMFT  
Marissa Marx, MS, LPCC, ACS  
Marjorie Huebner, Rosen Method Practitioner  
Mark Halley, Psy.D., LP  
Mark Heymans  
Mark LaChapelle, MSW, LICSW, LMFT, BCD  
Mark Zaczkowski Moorhead, MSW, LICSW  
Martha Anderson, MS LMFT  
Martha Waterfield, LADC, Pre-Licensed Clinical Counselor  
Martin Gardner

Mary Becker, PhD LP  
Mary beth Patterson LICSW  
Mary Clark, LICSW  
Mary Colleen Clarke, MA, Pre-Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor  
Mary Harrison, PHD, LICSW  
Mary McPhee, LSW, M.Ed  
Mary Norby CD(DONA)  
Mary Rosener, MS, LMFT  
Mary VanderLoop, MA, LP  
Mason Nordman, LICSW  
Matia Sollom, MA, LMFT  
Matilda George, RN  
Matthew Dooley, MSW, LGSW  
Max Avery, MA, LPCC, LADC  
Max Utterberg, PhD, LPCC  
Maxine Pfeifer, MA, LPCC  
Maya Labriola, LMFT  
Maya Singer, Art Therapy Intern  
McKenna Patrow MA, LPCC  
Mckenzie Merges, LMT  
Meg Peltier, MA  
Meg Spires, MSW, LICSW  
Megan Bjorklund, LPCC  
Megan Bona, PsyD, LP  
Megan Geisen MFT Intern  
Megan King, MSW, LGSW  
Megan Meyer, PT, DPT  
Megan Sigmon-Olsen, MSW, LICSW  
Megan Sutter, MSW LICSW  
Megan Tarmann, LMFT  
Meghan Beveridge APRN, FNP-C  
Meghan Clifford, PsyD, LP  
Meghan Colpas, PsyD, LP  
Meghan Jackson, LSW  
Meghan Keating, MSW, LGSW  
Meishon Behboudi, PsyD  
Melanie Hazelip (BSW)  
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Melissa Erickson. EdD, MAEd  
Melissa Jents, PsyD, LP  
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Melissa Nokes, MA, LMFT  
Melissa Raatz, MSW, LICSW, CHT  
Melissa Rice, MSW, LGSW  
Melissa Seidel, MSW, LICSW  
Melissa Turgeon, MPS, LPC, ATR- BC, CCLS  
Melodie Illies, MS, LMFT  
Meredith Evenson, MPS, LADC

Merry Barnes, Psy.D. LP  
Mey So, MA, Pre-licensed MFT  
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Mia Nosanow, MA, LP  
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Michele C. Holcomb, BS in HDFS, MFT student,  
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Michele Davidson, RN  
Michelle Harris, COTA/L, DOR  
Michelle Haury, PATH, Intl ATRI, ESMHL  
Michelle Hughes, MDiv, MT-BC student  
Michelle Hunt-Graham  
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Michelle Mattison, LICSW, LMSW  
Michelle Newman, MSW, LICSW  
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Michelle Rennie MA LMFT  
Michelle Schwartz, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Michelle Straley, RN  
Michelle Swerin, MA LPCC  
Midori Sakamoto, MA, LPCC  
Mikaela Dunn, MSW, LICSW  
Mikah Holloway, MSW, LICSW  
Mimi Choy-Brown, PhD, MSW, LGSW  
Miriam Gerber, PsyD, LP  
Missy Pastor, Clinical Mental Health Intern  
Mitchell Leppicello LICSW  
MJ Pearson LICSW, RPT  
Mollie Jonart, MA, LPCC  
Molly Burke, MA, pre-LPCC  
Molly DePrekel  
Molly Drew, LICSW  
Molly Perry, MA, LPCC  
Molly Sartor, MA LPCC  
Molly Schlieff, LICSW  
Monica Campo, MD, MPH  
Monica L. Sowden, LICSW  
Morgan Benskin  
Morgan Lillie, MSW Intern  
Morgan Schwartz PsyD LP  
Ms. Elder Jeweleen Jackson  
MSW, LICSW, MPH  
Myranda Shaw LPCC  
N. E. Lee  
Nadine McNiff  
Nancy Jarrett, MA, LMFT

Nancy Maczka, PMHNP, APRN, Retired  
Nancy Williams, MSW, LICSW  
Naomi Doriott Larson, MA, LPC(WI), LPCC(MN)  
Naomi Narvaez, MSW, LGSW  
Naomi Rath-Nesvacil, MEd, LPCC  
Naomi Ward, MSW, LISW, LSSW  
Nasreen Quadri, MD  
Natalie Atchison O'Connor MSW, LICSW  
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Natalie Nicholson, MA  
Natalie Oleson, MSW, LICSW  
Natalie Wortz, MA  
Natalya Meehan, MSW LICSW  
Natasha Parekh, PhD, LP  
Nathan Ernst, MA  
Neel Markofski, OTR, CYT  
Neha Sakowski, MD  
Neko Vanevenhoven, MA, LMFT  
Nichole Miner, LICSW  
Nichole Silburn, MA LMFT  
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Care  
Nicole 'Nikki' Kutil, MS, ATR-BC, LPCC  
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Nicole Rubbelke MSW, LICSW  
Nicole Scales Lindberg, MSW, MA, LICSW  
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Nicole Vujosevich, LICSW  
Nicole Welk  
Nicole White MA LPCC  
Nikki Wachlarowicz, MSW, LICSW  
Nikole Slocum, MS, LPCC  
Nina K Murray, MSW, LICSW  
Nissa Knutson MSW, LGSW  
Noelle Wolf, MA, ATR  
Norris Vorasane, MPS, LADC  
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Olivia Colby, MSW, LGSW, APSW  
Olivia Fricke, APRN, CNM  
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Olivia Martin, MT-BC, board certified music therapist

Onyx Chapman MSW, LGSW

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Pahoua Lee, MSW, LGSW

Pamela Freske, Ph.D., LP

Pamela Reigel, MA, LMFT

Pari Semsar, MA, LPCC

Patricia Chase, RYT

Patricia Hickey MD

Patricia Ostberg-Speiker, LMFT

Patricia Sandkamp, MA, LMFT

Patricia Ward, Psy.D

Patti Miller MA, LP

Patty Lauer-Roberts, MSW, LICSW

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Peggy Cottrell MA LMFT

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Rachael Hoffman, Psy.D. LP

Rachel Bakanowski, APRN-BC

Rachel Bentley, MA, LMHC, LPC

Rachel Edelschick, LICSW

Rachel Klein, MA, LMFT

Rachel Litecky, LICSW

Rachel Mickelson, MS, LMFT

Rachel Miller Jacobsen, MA, LMFT

Rachel Morrison, MSW LICSW

Rachel O. Smith, MFT Intern

Rachel Onusko, RD, LD

Rachel Svanoe Moynihan, SEP

Rachel Swenson, LICSW

Rachel Weber, MA LPCC ATR

Rachel White Robinson, OTR/L

Rae Hoelsing PhD, LP

Rahannah Johnrain, BSW

Raksmey Grotte, Psy.D, LP

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Raven Baker, LSW

Razaan Byrne MD

Rebecca Bengtson, MA, LMFT

Rebecca Brooks, MA, LPCC

Rebecca Budge, PA-C

Rebecca Enders, MA, LPCC

Rebecca Hartman MD

Rebecca Hoffman, MS, LMFT

Rebecca Marcoux, RN, PHN,

Rebecca Pilarzyk, MSW, LICSW

Rebecca Rathjen, LICSW

Rebecca Sheldon, MA, LPCC

Rebecca Stewart MSW LICSW

Rebekah Morse, MSW, LICSW

Rebekah Olayiwola, LGSW

Rev Margaret Kelly, MDiv, MSW, LICSW

Rev. Bryan Odeen

Rev. Sarah Brouwer

Rhianne Makovec

Rileigh Coyle, MA, LPCC

Riley Engstrom MA, LAdc

Riley Robertson, MS

Rita Hurd, MD

Rob Baker LPCC

Robert Boswell, LICSW, Retired

Robert D. Berger, MA, LP

Robin Fischer, LPCC

Robin Hugo RN, BSN, PHN

Romy Sundem, MA, LMFT

Rosemary Frazel, MSW, LICSW

Rosemary Frazel, MSW, LICSW, JD

Ross Casey

Ross VeLure Roholt, LGSW, MSW, PhD.

Ryan Bourdon MD

Ryan C. Van Wyk, PsyD, LP

Ryan Hilmoie, RN, BSN

Ryan Kelly/ LMT

Ryanne Mellick, MA, LPCC

Sabrina Eller, MA

Sadaf Pruitt, MA

Saleha Erdmann, MSW, LICSW

Sam Simon MA, LPCC

Sam Trewick, MA

Samantha D

Samantha Johns, MA

Samantha Johnson, RN

Samantha Smalley

Sammy Samim, MS, Pre-Licensed Therapist

Sandra K. Taylor, MSW

Sandra Mortensen MS, LPC, LSC

Sara Anne Hawkins, MA, LMFT

Sara Johnson, MA

Sara K. Najm, MPS, MEd, LPCC, LADC

Sara Watne, MA, LPCC

Sarah Meysenburg, APRN, CPNP  
Sarah Baumert  
Sarah Beckham, PsyD, LP  
Sarah Berman-Young, PhD  
Sarah Christopherson, MSW, LICSW  
Sarah Cowan, RN, LSN  
Sarah Cushing  
Sarah Davis, MA, LMFT  
Sarah Hamlin MSW, LICSW  
Sarah Hannan, Registered Dance/Movement  
Therapist  
Sarah Heimovics, PhD  
Sarah Hong  
Sarah Irons, M.Ed.  
Sarah Kuhn, MA  
Sarah Lindsey, M.A.Ed  
Sarah M. Deegan, MS, LPCC  
Sarah McCauley MA, LMFT  
Sarah Osborne, DNP, APRN, AGCNS-BC  
Sarah Ray MD  
Sarah Schuh, LICSW  
Sarah Schuh, LICSW  
Sarah Simpson, LMFT  
Sarah Slathar, MSW, LICSW  
Sarah Strasen, MSW, LICSW  
Sarah Thilmony, LICSW  
Sarah Utter  
Sarah Zinkel, MS OTR/L  
Saralynn Ness, MA, Pre-licensed mental health  
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Savannah Johnson, MA, LAMFT  
Scott McRae, MDiv, ACPE  
Sean M Toren, MSW, LICSW  
Serra Waldbillig Reiki Healing Practitioner  
Shannon Goecke-Watson, PsyD, LP  
Shannon Himango, MA, LMFT  
Shannon Meland, CCLS  
Shannon Robinson MA MS LPCC  
Sharon Burris-Brown L.I.C.S.W.  
Sharon Burris-Brown Mental Health Therapist  
L.I.C.S.W.  
Shauna Zotalis, LMFT  
Shawn Bergeth, MSW LGSW  
Shawny Sena MS, LMFT  
Sheldon Berkowitz, MD, FAAP  
Shelley Sears Berven, MSW, LICSW  
Shelly Edwards MA LP  
Sherlyn Romero  
Shodo Spring, LICSW

Shwn Hebert, MA, LPCC  
Sierra Buckley, MSW, LGSW  
Simone Greenleaf, LMFT  
Siobhan Fitzgerald, MSW, LICSW  
Solveig Ophaug, MD  
Sonia Zechmann, MD  
Sonja Wildwood, MA, LPCC  
Sonya Padron, OTR/L  
Sophia Pisco, MSW  
Stacy Gehringer, MSW, LICSW  
Stacy Pontinen  
Stacy Saindon LMFT  
Stacy Smith Donley, MA, LMFT  
Stefan Kramarczuk MD  
Stefanie Bauer, PsyD, LP  
Stefanie Dearman, Pre-Licensed Counselor  
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Stephanie Korchik  
Stephanie Nelson, LISW  
Stephanie Ruppert, MA, LMFT  
Stephanie Wagner, NBC-HWC, MA, MM  
Stephen W. Smith, MD  
Steven Hartman  
Sumana Damery, LPCC  
Susan Balto, LICSW MPH  
Susan Dunhaupt, Rosen Method Bodywork  
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Susan M Priem  
Susie Petteway, MSW Student  
Suzanne R Harman, MSW, LICSW  
Sydney Huberty, BS  
Sydney Summers, School Counselor  
Sylvia Reilly MEd Pre-Licensed MFT  
Taleisha Rooney, MSW, LICSW  
Tamara L Kaiser, Clinical Social Worker LICSW  
Tanya Schoettler, MA, LPCC  
Tara Bischoff  
Tara Fitzgerald, Ed.S., NCSP  
Tara LeBaron, Therapist, LPCC  
Tara Lien, LICSW  
Tara Martini MA, LSC  
Tara Waldron, LICSW  
Taryn Stevenson MA, CCC-SLP  
Tasha Walvig, PhD, MSW  
Tatyana V. Ramirez, Ph.D., L.P.  
Taylor Iverson  
Taylor Miller, MS, MA, LMFT  
Taylor Ryan (Baez), MA LPCC  
Taylor Smart LPCC

Taylor Wencel  
Teena Pflum APRN, CPNP  
Teresa Kleinschmidt, MS, LMFT  
Terra Sorg, MBA, MSW, LICSW  
Terrance E Rawson rn  
Terri J. Bernard, Psy D, Lp  
Terry Campbell, MA, LPCC  
Terry Campbell, MA, LPCC  
Tesni Sunne, LAMFT  
Tessa Gittleman, MA, LMFT-S  
Tessa Tuetken, LICSW  
Theresa H Lienau, PsyD, LP  
Theress Williams Next Step Community Outreach  
Supervisor  
Theresa Durenberger, MA, LMFT  
Thomas E. Kottke, MD, MSPH  
Thrace Soryn  
Tiffany Blomgren, RN - PICU  
Tiffany M Leuthold MS, LMFT  
Tiffany White, LGSW  
Tina D. Shah, PsyD, LP  
Tina Kaehn MSW LICSW  
Tina Welke, MSW, LICSW  
Tom Klint Jr. RN, BSN transplant  
Tonya Toutge, MA, LMFT, SEP  
Tonya Toutge, MA, LMFT, SEP  
Tonya Wilhelm, LICSW  
Tonya Wilhelm, LICSW  
Tori Bystedt, OTR/L  
Tracey Wilkins, MSW, LICSW  
Travis Michaels, LPCC, NCC  
Tricia Downing, MSW, LICSW  
Tricia Schulte, MA, MSW, LICSW  
Trish McKenna, MA, PsyD Doctoral Student  
Tyra Hughes, LMFT  
Vanessa Heit, MSW, LICSW  
Vanessa Richter, MSW, LGSW  
Veronica Nelson, MSW, LICSW  
Veronica Sharkey, MSW, LICSW  
Vessela Kouneva, LNFT  
Victoria Blackbird, RM, RYT  
Victoria Elliott MA LMFT  
Victoria Nohl, MA  
Victoria Whitman OD  
Virginia Rudloff, MSW  
Wendy Floss  
Wendy Sun, MD  
Wendy Williams, Wellness Coach, NBC-HWC  
Wensday Berman, MSW LGSW

Whitney Chase-teacher  
Whitney Molitor, LMFT  
Whitney Richardson, LMFT  
Xavier Schmitz, MSW, LICSW  
Yvonne Nobles, PsyD, LP  
Zack Rizzo, MSW, LICSW  
Zoe Martinez  
Zoe Zaret, MA, LPCC

February 20, 2026

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny, and Committee Members,

My name is Patty Matthews, and I am a resident of Apple Valley, Minnesota. I am writing to urge you to support HF3433 and HF3402 — legislation to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit the manufacture, transfer, ownership, or possession of high-capacity magazines.

I am the mother of a Burnsville detective who has served on the Burnsville Police Force for 23 years. In the early morning hours of February 18, 2024, we learned that two police officers had been shot. With deep fear, we tried to reach our son, but he did not respond. For more than an hour, we did not know whether he was one of the victims.

As the horror of that day unfolded, we learned that Paul Elmstrand, Matt Ruge, and Adam Finseth had been murdered with an assault rifle. Witnessing the impact on the entire Burnsville Police and Fire Departments that day — and in the weeks and months that followed — has been gut-wrenching. The trauma continues to haunt them with every call they respond to.

For our family, it has been especially painful to see what this tragedy has done to our son, and to his daughters, who now worry even more each day about their dad as he serves the community. As parents, we carry that worry constantly — not just for our son, but for all Burnsville law enforcement officers.

**The shooting of Paul, Matt, and Adam with an assault weapon shattered their bodies. Had a different type of firearm been used, they may have had a chance to survive.**

We continue to support the wives of Paul and Adam, and we have seen firsthand how these murders have shattered their lives. Their children are growing up without their fathers. Mateo Elmstrand will only know his dad through stories; he was just five months old when Paul was murdered.

With the murders of Matt, Paul, and Adam, and other tragic shootings across Minnesota, the majority of Minnesotans support banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

I am asking you, as elected officials, to represent the will of Minnesotans and vote YES on HF3433 and HF3402.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration of this important legislation.

Respectfully,  
*Patty Matthews*

February 22, 2026

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

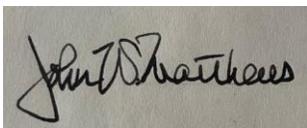
I am writing to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402.

My experience as a Lutheran pastor, a former Minnesota National Guard Chaplain, a police chaplain in four Minnesota communities over 45 years, and a (hand and hunting) gun-owner. . . all motivate me to encourage you in the legislature to vote for these bills which: *prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and which prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing high-capacity magazines.*

I have personally witnessed the immediate after effects of multiple shootings in the communities I've served as pastor and chaplain. (Most recently, I was involved closely in the immediate and ongoing details and dynamics of the 2024 Burnsville shootings of two officers and a paramedic, Adam, Paul & Matthew.) The tragedy of these deaths - with the ongoing after effects within families and communities - is sometimes unavoidable; however - and much more often - these events were preventable or would have been much less destructive had the access to assault weapons and multiple munitions been more difficult or impossible to obtain. The families I provided ministry to (and the law enforcement personnel with whom I've worked) in virtually every situation have told me how easy the access to those weapons and ammunition was, and how such easy access clearly contributed to the outcome and extremity of their tragedies. These are real life situations for me, confirming the research of every reputable institute, which correlates the easy access to assault weapons and high-capacity magazines with the tragedies we see monthly across our state and nation.

While I deeply respect your need as legislators to serve ALL of your constituents. . . on these issues/bills, it is clearly the case that approval and then passing them ultimately serves everyone, especially our children. We all know that a super majority of Minnesotans supports this legislation, and so I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering my testimony on this very important legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "John W. Matthews".

Rev. John W. Matthews

Resident of Apple Valley, Minnesota and ELCA Lutheran pastor  
(retired) Minnesota National Guard Chaplain  
(active) Burnsville Emergency Chaplain

Testimony of Richard Cowles for HF 3433 and HF 3402

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members:

I urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a 70-year resident of Minnesota, most of it in my current home in Eagan. I am testifying today because of all the current complex issues facing Minnesotans, gun violence is one of the most omnipresent issues, threatening every single one of us, every single day. None of us—or any of our loved ones—is immune from suddenly becoming a mass shooting victim, for instance. And while total fixes are elusive, these two bills provide some of the easiest, evidence-based means of saving innocent lives.

Further, while extremist voices will argue this violates their Second Amendment rights, neither bill does, and both are consistent with the US Supreme Court's position that guns may be regulated.

A 2018 study estimates that guns equipped with high-capacity magazines, which include assault weapons and other semiautomatic firearms, account for 22 to 36 percent of crime guns in most places, with some estimates upward of 40 percent for cases involving serious violence, including homicides of law enforcement officers. And the problem may be getting worse: research suggests that the prevalence of high-capacity magazines in guns used in crimes has grown substantially since the 2004 expiration of the federal prohibition on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

High-capacity magazines are commonplace in mass shootings and make shootings more lethal. Since 2015, each of the highest-casualty mass shootings has involved an assault weapon and a high-capacity magazine.

Research shows that restrictions on high-capacity magazines can help prevent mass shooting injuries and fatalities as well as reduce the devastation of gun violence. And, in fact, states with restrictions on magazine size experience mass shootings at less than half the rate of states without restrictions.

According to Dr. Michael Siegel, a researcher at Boston University, “Whether a state has a large capacity ammunition magazine ban is the single best predictor of the mass shooting rates in that state.”

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402. Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

February 23, 2026

Members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of NAMI Minnesota, we are writing in support of HF 3433 and HF 3402 to ban semiautomatic military-style assault weapons and large capacity magazines. Research is clear that exposure to gun violence is detrimental to community mental health. Communities that experience gun violence are shown to have higher rates of anxiety, depression, and PTSD than the general public.<sup>1</sup> Studies have shown, “[s]pecifically, permissive gun policies and firearm ownership are linked to higher rates of firearm-related suicides and aggressive behavior. Exposure to gun violence significantly exacerbates psychological distress, especially among vulnerable populations, and its effects persist long after direct exposure.”<sup>2</sup>

We recognize that firearms serve several functions in our society, including hunting, self-defense, and collecting. However, we find the potential harm of semiautomatic military-style assault weapons and large capacity magazines to greatly outweigh any arguable benefit. It makes sense to reduce access to these weapons that can inflict the most harm at the highest rate.

NAMI Minnesota has weighed in on several firearm policies in the past, and we continue to support safe storage and expanded use of Extreme Risk Protection Orders. We have weighed in on these issues because they impact our communities. We believe that the right balance can be struck legislatively by reducing access to deadly weapons while protecting the rights of citizens. Now we once again support what we believe to be good policy to keep our communities safe and healthy, and call for banning semiautomatic military-style assault weapons and large capacity magazines. We urge your support of HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Sincerely,



Marcus Schmit  
Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> Peterson, J.K., Densley, J.A. & Pyrooz, D.C. Mental health consequences of exposure to mass and non-mass shootings in a national sample of US adults. *Nat. Mental Health* 3, 530–537 (2025).

<sup>2</sup> Spitz, V. H., Fernandes Damiano, B. B., Flores E Paez, L. E., de Amorim Auler, M., Lopes, L., Beiram, L., Roncete, G. P., Yano, O. L., Gomes, R. N. D. S. M., & Damiano, R. F. (2025). The Impact of Firearm Ownership, Violence, and Policies on Mental Health: A Systematic Scoping Review. *Harvard review of psychiatry*, 33(5), 243–263.

MN House Public Safety Committee

State Capitol

St. Paul, MN

Representatives:

I am writing in support of **HF3433**, Assault Weapons Ban, and **HF 3402**, High Capacity Magazines. As the father of a murdered child (Katherine Ann Olson—murdered in the first Craigslist killing in 2007) I know the toll that gun violence takes on families and communities. When well over half of Americans say that they have been affected by gun violence we need to regard this as the public health problem that it is.

As a gun owner and hunter, I see no legitimate use for such weapons when hunting. The bullets from these weapons destroy the flesh of animals, rendering them less edible. As a sportsman, having so many accessible bullets lessens the sport involved. When duck hunting the hunter is limited to five shells in the gun. The emphasis and sport is on the marksmanship of the hunter. With semiautomatic weapons and high capacity magazines there is much less sport involved when many bullets can be fired rapidly.

It is exactly these same factors that make these items so dangerous to the public. It is clear why they are the favored weapon for mass shooters. So the question is, *why do we allow millions of people access to these killing machines?* Manufacturers design them for military use (for killing) – as automatic weapons. These government contracts make them wealthy. Then they modify them to semi automatic and market them to the public, telling consumers that “you, too, can be like our brave soldiers with your very own military style weapon!”

Please ban these weapons in Minnesota and let sportsmen enjoy hunting and children enjoy living without fear.

Thank you.

Rev. Rolf Olson

1859 Simpson St.

Falcon Heights, MN

Dear Co-Chairs Moller and Novotny and Members of the House Public Safety Committee,

My name is Rose DeBoer and I have three children at Annunciation. My husband Matt is also the principal of the school. I am writing in support of HF3433, Assault Weapons Bans, and HF3402, High Capacity Magazines. I am a teacher at Totino-Grace High School. August 27th was also my third day of school. I started the day like any other, helping my kids get ready for school. I remember having this distinct feeling of needing to go back inside and say goodbye and give everyone hugs and say I loved them again. On my drive to school I was listening to MPR speak about a shooting outside of Cristo Rey High School the day before. I knew one of Matt's plans for the school that day was to have students make cards for the Cristo Rey community. He was going to invite them to do this after Mass that morning. I was supervising study hall first period and a few minutes in, two colleagues came to my classroom and asked me to step outside. One of my colleagues (a fellow Annunciation parent) said there was an active shooter at Annunciation. I was in total shock and disbelief. I remember saying no, NO, NO! and falling to the ground against the lockers in the hallway. I remember going to my colleague and saying, "If there is a shooter, Matt is going to get between him and the kids. He will put himself in harm's way." I was terrified. I learned later that it is exactly what Matt did. I called him repeatedly but couldn't reach him. On the way to Annunciation, a 25 minute drive that felt like hours, I tried calling every parent I knew to ask if they had seen my children or Matt. At one point, the sheriff called and said Matt and two of my kids were safe. I asked about my third child and the sheriff said they had no idea. I couldn't breathe. I called and called. At one point another parent called me to say they had my son and he was really scared because he couldn't find his sister. I stayed on the phone with him trying to comfort him until I heard him call for his sister nearby. I heard them sob together. My family was physically safe. The relief I felt was short lived - immediately followed by a strong sense of guilt that other parents didn't have that relief yet and may never experience it. This was heartbreaking. I was shocked by the immediacy of that feeling. When we got to Annunciation, I was physically unable to walk. My two colleagues on either side of me held me upright as we walked into the school. I couldn't do it alone. The gift of hugging my children and Matt again was the most important moment of my life.

I share my experience of that day because it's important to viscerally feel what goes through a person in this situation. I also want to be clear - August 27th wasn't a one day event. We are still struggling and recovering months after the worst day of our lives. The pain is *still* visceral. When I think of that moment when I was told about the shooting, it makes me want to vomit.

I returned to work for the first time this week to substitute. Months after August 27th, I struggled to be 25 minutes away from my family. Matt's job is all-consuming. He is at Annunciation working 70+ hour weeks. Matt has always said it is his job to keep students safe. He feels that he failed at this on August 27th. The truth is: no human being can keep children safe from an AR-15 and the 116 bullets shot at our children that day. I struggle with the fact that as the wealthiest and most powerful country in the world, we have to worry about our children's safety in school.

August 27th was not inevitable - it was preventable. We can keep our children safer if we remove access to AR-15s. As we say to our children at Annunciation, *be brave*. We owe it to Harper, to Fletcher, and to all of our children.

Rose DeBoer

February 23, 2026

Dear Ms. McDaniel,

I am writing in support of HF 3433 - Assault Weapons Ban and HF 3402 - High Capacity Magazine Ban. It is time to pass these!

I am a career teacher and a mom. For many of my teaching years, I served in international schools around the world. We had no lockdown drills. We had no fear of a gun massacre. The children felt safe in school, even in Guatemala and Venezuela!

Teaching in Minnesota is a different story. Our children are massacred by automatic weapons. Guns are inflicting insurmountable damage to our communities. Lockdown drills are necessary, and they are causing traumatic experiences in children and teachers. Have you been in a school on a lockdown day? Do you see the fear in the children's eyes and hear their words of worry? As a teacher, I literally have nightmares about this. Many of my colleagues are personally connected to friends whose children are dead because of gun massacres. My husband and I know it's only a matter of time until we, personally, are affected by a massacre *unless change happens*.

There have been times when I wanted to go to an event that promised to draw a large crowd and decided the risk of a gun massacre was too much. My husband, a hunter, carries his hunting first aid kit when we go to places with large crowds. We make plans for emergency scenarios if an active shooter comes on site. This is insane! We adults do not feel safe in our own state because there is a lack of gun control.

Assault weapons are disproportionately and increasingly used in mass shootings. Over half of the deadliest mass shootings in history involved assault weapons, with their use spiking from 19% in the 1990s to nearly 60% in the 2020s. Research suggests that banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines could significantly reduce mass shootings and deaths. (The Violence Prevention Project, Hamline University) Look at other countries and see how they control their guns for a safer population. We have these massacres because we allow these weapons of mass destruction.

My international friends ask me why our elected leaders do not look at the problem, identify the strikingly obvious solution, and do what is right. It's a clear path. Ban these weapons built for mass human slaughter!

Sincerely,  
Ruth A. Rasmusson  
Northfield, MN

My name is Dr. Sheldon Berkowitz and I am a retired pediatrician and a Past President of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MNAAP). I am writing in support of two bills being discussed in the MN House Public Safety Committee: HF 3433, banning possession of semiautomatic military-style assault weapons and HF 3402, banning possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines. While I understand the need for our military and some departments of law enforcement to have the need to use these types of weapons, I have yet to hear a good reason why anyone else should need to own them. Such laws would not infringe on anyone's right to hunt (since I don't believe either of these are used in hunting) nor do I believe that they would have much impact on an individual's rights to protect themselves. Let's remember that in 1994, a bipartisan ban on semiautomatic firearms and high-capacity magazines was passed in the US Congress and was in place for 10 years until it expired in 2004. Everytown for Gun Safety research has reported that this federal ban prevented at least 10 public mass shootings during those 10 years and in the years that followed from 2015-2022, mass shootings where an assault weapon was used, resulted in more people being shot and wounded or killed compared to shootings that didn't involved an assault weapon.

It IS possible to pass bipartisan rules that will save lives – if only our legislators are willing to do it.

Sheldon Berkowitz, MD, FAAP

351 Pleasant Ave.

St. Paul, MN 55102

Sberkowitz1@gmail.com

612-554-8490

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Susan Wehrenberg and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high-capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a lifelong Minnesotan with a large family in the state, and we have been affected by gun violence. My 6 year-old grandson fears his teacher will get shot. My mentally ill nephew took his own life with a borrowed gun.

I am testifying today because:

- As we saw last summer, it is extremely easy for a disturbed individual to purchase weapons and ammunition designed for maximum killing and use them on innocent children.
- Since 2015, each of the highest-casualty mass shootings has involved an assault weapon and a high-capacity magazine.
- States with restrictions on magazine size experience mass shootings at less than half the rate of states without restriction

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Please see the attached photos from Uvalde and Sandy Hook.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Susan Wehrenberg  
13550 Hershey Court  
Apple Valley

Dear Committee Administrator,

I would like to share my support of two bills coming up in front of the House Safety Committee. Please know I support HF 3433 the ban of assault weapons (weapons of war) and HF 3402 the ban of high capacity magazines. I am a resident of 64A. After what are community has been through in the last 6 months with the Annunciation Shooting and armed Federal militia in our streets the need for automatic weapons and high capacity magazines is simply not warranted in today's communities. Please support these laws. Help protect our children to have safer communities.

Best Regards,  
Susan Kramer  
1004 Portland Ave  
Saint Paul, MN 55104

I live in Tangletown in South Minneapolis. I was home the day of the Annunciation shooting and my kids and I heard the gunshots. We thought the shots were nearby roofers. Life changed in ways that are sometimes hard to describe after that day.

My children go to a different Catholic school in Minneapolis and that morning when we arrived at school, we were told that there was an active shooter at Annunciation. We were given the choice to leave children at school where they would go on lockdown or to bring them home. I decided to bring my children home. Before leaving the school, I called my neighbor two houses up (her boys attend Annunciation) to ensure that her boys were okay. Her reply was: "yes, they are at school." I will never forget the screams I heard on the other end of the line when I told her that there was an active shooter at the school and she needed to get there right away. I have relived that conversation every day since the shooting.

There are many children in my neighborhood and community who attend Annunciation. Half of my children's baseball team was in that church. Every day, I think about how lucky I was that my kids were not there but how easily they could have been. I also think about how easily this could (and will) happen again unless we institute change.

**Firearm-related injuries became the number one cause of death for children in the United States in 2017.** The US gun death rate is far higher than in countries such as Canada, Australia and most European nations. Our children are nine times more likely to be shot and killed than children in Canada. The American Medical Association has deemed the gun issue in the US a public health crisis. This is unacceptable. Research has shown that policy can prevent many of these deaths.

When my children ask me if they are safe at school I lie to them and tell them they are. The reality is that none of us is safe anywhere, ever, period. Until weapons of war are made illegal in this country we will continue to experience these unspeakable tragedies.

I still have to hide my panic from my children when I drop them off at school. I avoid crowds and I have stopped attending church out of fear. I think about the shooting and the heartbreak it meant for the Moyski and Merkel families everyday and you should too.

We owe it to our children to make this state a safer place. Please vote in favor of a high capacity magazine and automatic weapon ban. As a mother, I beg you.

Thank you,  
Suzanne Canney Nguyen, Mother, PA-C, MPH

February 22, 2026

**Testimony of Terry Campbell for HF 3433 and HF 3402**

**Volunteer with Gun Violence Prevention Group of the League of Women Voters-  
Minnesota and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense In America**

**Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy**

1. Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Terry Campbell and I am writing today to urge the committee to **support HF 3433 and HF 3402**, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

A Minneapolis resident and licensed psychotherapist, I have witnessed the devastating and life changing effects of gun violence on my clients, and have also been personally impacted.

As a 22- year old college student working at a downtown Minneapolis walk-up/drive-up bank, I was one of several tellers robbed at gun-point. Tragically, our seventy-year-old about to retire bank guard was shot in the head. Though he survived, his life and long-anticipated retirement years were changed forever! My life was also changed! For many weeks my brain and body were on hyper-alert and the images of the shooting and robbery re-played continually in my head. I avoided windows and public spaces out of a fear that the escaped gunman might find and target me in an effort to remove a potential witness. But perhaps the biggest effect was that I have never again had the same assumption of trust in a safe future.

My symptoms were typical of people who experience gun violence. Loss of trust and hope in the future are near universal experiences among traumatized individuals. In my work as a trauma specialist, I have born witness to many gut-wrenching stories from far too many traumatized clients, including witnesses of gun violence! For many of these witnesses long-lasting emotional, physical, relational, employment and educational problems result. Survivors often attempt to numb their memories and pain through habitual drug / alcohol abuse, thereby becoming a burden to themselves, their families, and to broader society.

As a therapist, mother and grandmother, I ask why these horrific, life-changing, and expensive tragedies are allowed to happen? Prohibiting assault weapons and high capacity magazines, which have no use other than killing human beings at a rapid rate, would reduce the impact of gun violence trauma for so many. We, the People," have a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Assault weapons and high capacity magazines, ever more frequently and rapidly are taking these freedoms from all of us!

I encourage members of the committee to vote **YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402**.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation!

Sincerely,

Terry Campbell, MA, LPCC

Thomas E. Kottke, MD, MSPH  
571 Otis Avenue  
St Paul MN 55104  
District 64A

To: Members of the House Public Safety Committee

Re: HF3433 - Assault Weapons Bans, and HF3402 - Possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines banned.

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I am writing in support of HF3433 and HF3402.

I am a cardiologist. For 40 years I thought I was addressing America's biggest health problem. That was until a few years ago. Today, the greatest burden on health and well-being is probably gun violence and fear of gun violence.

In addition to the years of life lost by individuals killed by gun violence, survivors of gun violence can suffer PTSD and poor long-term physical health. Death of a child more than doubles the probability that a parent will suffer psychiatric disorders. Parents of adolescent and child survivors have been found to have a 30% increase in psychiatric disorders.

The impact of gun violence on Americans is not limited to those directly impacted. Last year, my co-authors and I published our analysis of four national surveys about fear of gun violence (American Journal of Health Promotion; 2025.39(7), pages 1010–1015). We found that fear of gun violence has invaded the lives of all but a few Americans; only one in eight reported no anxiety about gun violence. While most Americans may not be disabled by fear of gun violence, the impact on the population is large because fear of gun violence is so pervasive.

Fear of gun violence affects daily behavior: People stay indoors instead of engaging in physical activity. Rather than engaging their children in active recreation, they keep them inside. They skip concerts and sporting events. A few even skip going to their doctor.

Exposure to fatal school shootings weighs on the mental health of youth. It increases antidepressant use. It increases absenteeism and grade repetition. It reduces high school graduation, college enrollment, and college completion rates. It reduces employment and earnings among young adults. School shootings have also been found to increase turnover among teachers and teaching support staff.

Active shooter drills in schools are not the answer. They increase fear, inflate perceptions of risk, and decrease perceptions of school safety among the students.

Armed guards are not a solution either. As seen at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis, because an assault weapon was used, the shooting was over and the harm done almost before people realized it was happening.

These facts are all in peer-reviewed, scientific publications. I am willing to share the citations.

Banning assault weapons and large capacity magazines will not stop all gun violence, but it will certainly reduce the number of people killed and injured when it does occur. Therefore, I support HF3433 and HF3402 and urge the members of the House Public Safety Committee to do the same.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas E. Kottke MD". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

To Co-Chairs Moller and Novotny and Members of the House Public Safety Committee:

I am writing to express my support of HF 3433 Assault Weapons Bans and HF 3402 Banning Possession of High Capacity Magazines. I ask my representatives and all Minnesota lawmakers to do everything in their power to protect our community from experiencing more horrific gun violence tragedies through the passage of these laws.

Thank you for your service,

Todd Austin  
1312 Douglas Ave, Apt 2  
Minneapolis MN 55403



## Veterans For Peace Chapter 27 612-821-9141

200 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 7  
Minneapolis MN 55407

Website: [vfpchapter27.org](http://vfpchapter27.org)  
Email: [vfpchapter27@gmail.org](mailto:vfpchapter27@gmail.org)

### Support of a Minnesota Ban on the Sale and Transfer of Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines (HF 3433, HF 3434, SF 3654, and SF 3681)

Updated: 2/20/2026

**What we want.** We want the Legislature to approve a ban on the sale and transfer of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, which would make Minnesota the eleventh state to do so. These mass “killing machines,” especially assault rifles, are semiautomatic versions of weapons created for deadly battlefield purposes. We know they are the weapon of choice for mass murderers, responsible for most of the devastating mass shootings, including mass shootings in our schools. An analysis of public mass shootings resulting in four or more deaths found that more than 85% of such fatalities were caused by assault rifles.<sup>1</sup> An assailant with an assault rifle is able to hurt and kill twice the number of people compared to an assailant with a non-assault rifle or handgun.<sup>2</sup> An article in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* stated, “AR-15 bullets can penetrate the soft body armor typically worn by police, which is built to stop handgun rounds.”<sup>3</sup>

**Veterans know first-hand the damage these weapons of war cause.** One Vietnam vet described how two young Vietnamese boys planted a bomb on his fire support base that went off prematurely. The assault rifle rounds fired by his fellow Marines literally ripped and exploded the boys’ bodies to shreds as they tried to escape. An Army medic in Vietnam described how an M16 round entered the left wrist of an attacking enemy soldier, traveled along his arm, through his chest and abdomen, and finally exited out the top of his right thigh.

**Such horror stories aren’t limited to veterans.** An emergency room doctor said damage done by assault rifle bullets looks like a grenade went off in a body, while damage from a 9mm handgun bullet looks like a bad knife cut. The gunman with assault weapons at a Las Vegas concert fired 1,000 rounds in ten minutes, murdering 60 people and injuring nearly 900. The damage was so devastating for the victims of the Robb Elementary School massacre in Uvalde, Texas, parents had to submit DNA swabs to identify the remains of their children.<sup>4</sup> Using his legally acquired assault rifle, the shooter at Annunciation Church and School in Minneapolis on 8/27/25 fired 116 high-powered, military rounds in just a few minutes killing 2 children and wounding 23 people including 20 children.

**We know that bans are legal and effective.** Numerous studies confirm that state bans save lives. According to a study published in *Applied Economics Letters*, “[I]t was found that assault weapons bans in the states that approved them reduced the number of school shooting victims by 54%.”<sup>5</sup> Similarly, a Johns Hopkins University study stated, “[W]e see a 70% lower rate of individuals killed in mass shootings associated with state bans of [high-capacity magazines].”<sup>6</sup>

**We know that the experts and Minnesotans want them.** According to a recent statewide poll, 61% of Minnesotans support a state ban on assault weapons, and 64% support banning high-capacity magazines.<sup>7</sup> Gov. Walz has also voiced his strong support.<sup>8,9</sup> The mayors of Minneapolis and St. Paul and seven other cities stated support for a ban, and the city councils of Minneapolis, St. Paul, Edina, and West St. Paul approved official actions in support. As a part of the hearings by the Senate Gun Violence Prevention Working Group, 10 organizations submitted “proposals” that stated support for a state ban on assault weapons, including 3 medical groups with a total of 14,000 members.<sup>10</sup>

**We know the gun industry is about profit not protection.** Their ghoulish marketing now targets women and children even though the plague of gun violence is the leading cause of death for American youth.<sup>11</sup> Our schools—with their regular, lock-down drills—have become a place of fear for our children. Yet the industry’s latest weapon is a smaller assault rifle for kids, the JR15, that fires a .22 caliber round. Advertising includes the company’s logo that features child skulls with rifle crosshairs for eyes and a pacifier.



**It’s about the guns.** When it comes to mass shootings, it’s about banning these weapons of war, not some imaginary Second Amendment right to buy them,<sup>12</sup> nor the dodge of blaming inadequate mental health services,<sup>13</sup> nor the lie that AR-15-style rifles are not “weapons of war.” When firing either military or civilian ammunition, AR-15-style rifles are actually more powerful than the military’s standard-issue, M4 assault rifle that replaced the M16. What is more important is that this ammunition can tumble and fragment upon impact, which makes them horribly deadly. It’s about our citizens—especially our children—and the lives that would be saved by this ban.

**Contact person: Michael Orange, orange\_michael@msn.com, 952-905-1448** (USMC, Vietnam, 1969-70)

**For more information, see Everytown for Gun Safety,** <https://www.everytown.org>, **Brady,** <https://www.bradyunited.org>, and **Giffords,** <https://giffords.org/?s=assault+weapons>. Two *Washington Post* articles provide graphic explanations of the grizzly effects of high-powered, assault weapon rounds.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Source: Giffords, [https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/hardware-ammunition/assault-weapons/#footnote\\_1\\_5603](https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/hardware-ammunition/assault-weapons/#footnote_1_5603).

<sup>2</sup> Source: Giffords, *ibid*.

<sup>3</sup> Source: “A ‘good guy with a gun’ doesn’t stand much of a chance against an AR-15 style rifle and body armor,” Ralph A. Weber, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 6/14/2022.

<sup>4</sup> Source: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2022/06/02/remarks-by-president-biden-on-gun-violence-in-america/#:~:text=The%20damage%20was%20so%20devastating,and%20those%20under%20restraining%20orders>.

<sup>5</sup> “The effects of state and Federal gun control laws on school shootings,” Mark Gius, *Applied Economics Letters*, 4/19/2027, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13504851.2017.1319555>

<sup>6</sup> “Policies That Reduce Gun Violence: Restricting Large Capacity Magazines,” Daniel Webster, Johns Hopkins University, 5/24, 2021, <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2021/policies-that-reduce-gun-violence-restricting-large-capacity-magazines/#:~:text=Our%20estimate%20was%20that%20laws,is%20licensing%20for%20firearm%20purchasers%20>.

<sup>7</sup> “New Poll: Majority of Minnesotans Demand Assault Weapons Ban; Pressure Mounts as Governor Walz Fails to Call Special Session One Month After Annunciation Church School Shooting,” 9/29/2025, <https://www.everytown.org/press/new-poll-majority-of-minnesotans-demand-assault-weapons-ban-pressure-mounts-as-governor-walz-fails-to-call-special-session-one-month-after-annunciation-church-school-shooting/#:~:text=61%25%20support%20a%20state%2Dlevel,address%2C%20surpassing%20taxes%20and%20education>.

<sup>8</sup> “Walz makes gun control central to pitch for third term: In Congress, Gov. Tim Walz received an “A” rating from the NRA. Now he wants action to curb gun violence,” Allison Kite, *Minnesota Star Tribune*, 9/17/2025, <https://www.startribune.com/a-look-at-walzs-political-evolution-on-guns-as-he-launches-governor-bid/601475196>

<sup>9</sup> Source: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2025/09/19/gov-walz-interview-running-for-third-term>

<sup>10</sup> Source: <https://www.senate.mn/schedule/senate/20250917>

<sup>11</sup> Source: “Preventing firearm violence and injuries impacting children and teens,” Centers for Disease Control, 12/16/24, <https://www.cdc.gov/firearm-violence/php/research-summaries/children-and-teen-impacts.html#:~:text=Introduction,19%20in%202020%20and%202021>.

<sup>12</sup> On June 26, 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed by a vote of 5 to 4 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in *Heller v. District of Columbia* and established that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess firearms for self-defense in the home. The Court also specified that this protection extends to “arms” in common use for lawful purposes, such as self-defense, and that handguns are “arms” for the purposes of the Second Amendment. The decision does not protect weapons that are not “in common use” for lawful purposes, such as modern military weapons.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Claiming it’s a mental health issue is just a dodge. In 2025, the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans cut \$11.4 billion from various mental and behavioral health services that Democrats in Congress were able to approve over Republican opposition during the prior four years. Blaming inadequate mental health services is just bait-and-switch propaganda from the gun lobby and the NRA

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/interactive/2023/ar-15-force-mass-shootings/?itid=lk\\_inline\\_manual\\_2&itid=lk\\_inline\\_manual\\_2](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/interactive/2023/ar-15-force-mass-shootings/?itid=lk_inline_manual_2&itid=lk_inline_manual_2)  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/interactive/2023/ar-15-damage-to-human-body/?itid=lk\\_inline\\_enhanced-template](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/interactive/2023/ar-15-damage-to-human-body/?itid=lk_inline_enhanced-template)

Attention:

Public Safety Committee Administrator

I am writing to you in support of House File 3402, AND the ban on assault weapons.

These are common sense public safety measures and need to become law.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Warren J. Moser

Shakopee, MN

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy  
1 Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Will Roberts and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a math teacher at Falcon Ridge Middle School in Apple Valley and a resident of South Minneapolis. I have personally attended the funerals of high schoolers killed by gun violence.

I am testifying today because my wife is constantly afraid of a school shooting. I don't think that teachers should be leaving home every day as though they are being sent on a dangerous military deployment. I think it should be considered odd that every year the staff at my school has a training with local police over which classroom objects can be thrown at an armed intruder. I think we can, and should, live in a better, safer world.

My experience leads me to emphasize the danger posed to children and teenagers today. I do not want to feel the need to attend any more funerals for former students who were shot to death on our streets.

And yet, as I write this, guns are the 2nd leading cause of death amongst children and teens in Minnesota.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Will Roberts



*Traditional Worship • Contemporary Message • A Call to Social Justice  
We acknowledge that we gather in the Dakota Homeland.*

**Written Testimony in Support of HF3433 (Assault Weapons Ban) and HF3402 (High-Capacity Magazine Ban)**  
Submitted to the Minnesota House Committee  
February 2026

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Good morning, and thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HF3433, banning assault weapons, and HF3402, banning high-capacity magazines.

My name is Pastor Ingrid Rasmussen. I grew up as a farm kid in rural Minnesota, and now I serve as a Lutheran pastor in the heart of Minneapolis. From gravel roads to city streets, Minnesotans are clear: we support a ban on assault rifles and high-capacity magazines.

I was 16 years old during Columbine. I was 20 during Rocori. I was 22 during Red Lake. I was 29 during Sandy Hook. I am 42 now—raising children of my own—while living through Cristo Rey and Annunciation in my own community. For 26 years, school gun violence has been the backdrop to my life and ministry. This is not simply a policy failure—it is a failure of moral imagination.

It does not have to be this way. Elementary students do not need to learn how to tend bullet wounds. Teenagers do not need to carry first aid kits in their backpacks. Clergy do not need to assess sightlines in sanctuaries in case of an active shooter. Mothers do not need to run barefoot into the street to see if their children are alive. As a state, we can say: No more. Not on our watch. It ends here.

My late grandmother, Evie, served more than two decades as the Republican National Committeewoman from Minnesota. I grew up coming to this Capitol with her. She taught me that leadership means listening—and sometimes it means changing course. If she were alive today, I believe she would be as bewildered as I am—bewildered by legislators' refusal to act when the majority of Minnesotans support this ban. Bewildered that we cannot see that true freedom is always tied to love of neighbor—and here, freedom and love mean choosing children's lives over weapons of war.

I am under no illusion: it will take courage from Republicans and Democrats alike to act. For some, it may mean breaking ranks with your party. For others, risking political security for the sake of the most vulnerable. But you will not stand alone. My coalition includes more than 1,000 faith leaders from across Minnesota who have already signed on in support of banning assault rifles and high-capacity magazines. These are pastors, rabbis, imams, priests, and lay leaders from rural towns and urban neighborhoods alike—people who are ready to act. They are prepared to stand with you, to pray with you, and to publicly support you when you choose courage.

As Jesus instructed his disciples, "Let your yes be your yes, and your no be your no." Our children await your answer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Ingrid Rasmussen

Lead Pastor

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

**February 23, 2026**

**House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee**

Dear Co-Chair Moller, Co-Chair Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

I am the mother of a sixth grader who had just started at Annunciation Catholic School this school year. August 27 was her third day there — and her very first Mass in that church. By the end of that morning, our lives were divided into “before” and “after.”

We were one of the fortunate families. We got to hold our daughter that day. She was not physically injured, but she has not been the same since.

In the weeks following the shooting, she felt physically sick just trying to walk through the school’s doors. Nauseous. Shaking. Begging us not to make her go inside. She has shown a kind of bravery no child should ever have to summon, but her body remembers what her mind is still trying to process. Eventually, we made the heartbreaking decision to move her to another school so she could breathe again — so she could simply be a child.

Before that day, she had never struggled with anxiety. Now she carries it with her every day.

I am not writing to debate politics. I am writing as a parent who watched her daughter lose her sense of safety in a single morning — and who has seen that fear ripple through classmates, teachers, families, and an entire community.

No parent should ever have to run toward their child’s school in absolute terror, not knowing if they will get to hold them again.

You have the power to reduce the chances that another family will live through that moment. I am asking you to show up this session not as Democrats or Republicans, but as lawmakers entrusted with protecting children and communities.

Please vote yes on HF3433 (Greenman) and HF2402 (Tabke).

Thank you for taking the time to read our story and for your service to the people of Minnesota.

Sincerely,  
Ieva Saulite Gorrilla

February 23, 2026

House Public Safety Finance and Policy

**Dear Co-Chair Moller, Co-Chair Novotny, and members of the committee:**

I'm the father of a student that attends Annunciation Catholic School. August 27th has forever changed our family and our community.

There are things that happen and there are things that should never happen.

When I returned after missing the first few days of the school year, I had my 10th grade students read and analyze an excerpt of Frederick Douglass's 1852 speech "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" in which he unflinchingly questions the meaning of Independence Day for those enslaved. Douglass writes, "This Fourth of July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn."

A question I've been unable to ignore since, a question that has kept me up at night, a modern and uniquely American question, a question that has compelled me to write is as follows: What, to America's schoolchildren, is the Second Amendment?

An entire industry has developed around preparations for active shooters. School districts and policy makers have spent billions of tax dollars on hardening schools, on reunification plans, on in-service workshops for teachers to decide whether they should run, hide, or fight in a given scenario. There have been public discussions about arming teachers and building schools and classrooms without windows. Around the country, funds have been spent on the training and retraining of first responders and hospitals for mass casualty, battlefield-type events.

On August 27, 2025 my seventh-grade son was attending church at Annunciation School in Minneapolis when an untrained gunman, equipped with 30-round magazines, fired 116 rounds in sixty-seven seconds through stained-glass windows on a sunny Wednesday morning. Two children, Fletcher Merkel, 8, and Harper Moyski, 10, were killed and thirty more were injured.

While preparing to teach my first day of the year at a high school twenty minutes away, I was made aware of an active shooter at Annunciation through a text message from my wife. I was unable to comprehend the message on an actionable level as I was already bargaining. I read and reread the text a half-dozen times before eventually racing down the freeway toward Annunciation. Annunciation is where I was married, where my children were baptized and took their First Communion. About halfway my phone rang and I heard the most beautiful sound I have ever heard, and will probably ever hear: It was my crying son telling me that he is unhurt and that he loves me. Through tears, I felt a moment of relief followed by instant, crushing guilt.

A photo of my wife and son's reunification embrace was most of the front page of the Minnesota Star Tribune the next morning. My son's first question moments after the photo, "Are my friends alive?"

What, to America's schoolchildren, is the Second Amendment?

Before August 27, 2025 I naively believed that wanton and senseless violence wouldn't affect me or my loved ones. I thought we were safe. It happened elsewhere. It happened in other neighborhoods. It happened in Connecticut and Texas and Nevada and Virginia and Florida and Colorado. My children would ask about "Code Red" drills in the evenings after yet another drill and I would quote talking points

about schools and places of worship being statistically the safest places. I told my children that we live in a nice neighborhood. I told them that we were safe. I told them that they were safe.

I attended two funerals of murdered children and was overwhelmed by the thought of Sandy Hook and Robb families attending dozens more. A wreath with the following message was placed outside Annunciation shortly after shooting, "We get it. With love, Uvalde." It is a haunting message that takes on new meaning every day.

Most American adults have never had to practice a lock-down drill. Our children have, many times, and they live in a world where this is routine. This is deeply unfair to our children and selfish on our part as adults.

My son and his classmates had the courage to return to school.

Do we have the courage to do something?

My son now jumps at loud noises. Sounds, unremarkable to my ear, bring recollections of shattering stained glass. He tells us that he's okay but his eyes and the look on his face betray him. He doesn't like to be alone. He has a bedroom but chooses to sleep on the floor next to our bed. He is 13. I've stopped asking him what his nightmares are about. A friend honored him with his father's Purple Heart ribbon bar earned in Normandy at the end of World War II; it is now framed next to his bed.

My son was separated from his friends in the chaos after the shooting. When later reunited in the school gym they on sight and pure in heart ran toward each other and embraced through sobs.

What, to America's schoolchildren, is the Second Amendment?

We, the adults, have failed. We have failed our children and our grandchildren. And if we do nothing, we will have failed another generation of American schoolchildren.

Might your child or grandchild say, might an entire generation say when they find their voice, and they will find their voice, "This Second Amendment is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn."

I've heard blood-chilling stories from the mouths of children told with such flat affect that I am left temporarily speechless. I've seen police officers and emergency room surgeons cry. I've seen teachers and firefighters cry. I've seen clergy members, grandparents, and complete strangers cry.

I've seen the brain of an eighth grader.

I watched a father, with a strength that I don't think I possess, walk his three surviving children back into the classroom for the restart of the school year.

We must bravely confront unpleasant truths about the present. We compel our children to courageously march into school every day. Schools where they will be required to practice active shooter and lock-down drills. Schools where they will learn the unofficial curriculum of what was allowed to take place at Sandy Hook Elementary and Robb Elementary and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, with a geographic addendum to the nearest and most recent school shooting.

Our children are on the defensive. It is something that I've known, but didn't acknowledge in a meaningful way for nearly two decades, and I am ashamed.

Our current reality is that no community is safe from firearm violence.

When your child or grandchild asks you what you have done to make them safer at school how will you respond?

When the shooting begins in your community, it is all about seconds. The police and other first responders will arrive in less than five minutes.

What sort of firearm do you want the shooter to level at your loved one?

What is the magazine capacity?

How many times will they need to reload?

What is the design of the rounds they are firing?

Which fire rate modification device are they using?

The inexperienced Annunciation gunman used three firearms that morning: a handgun, a shotgun, and an AR-style rifle with multiple 30-round magazines. The weapon used for nearly 97% of the rounds fired was not a self-defense handgun, nor was it a hunting shotgun. It was a rifle firing high-pressure rounds that, by design, would yaw, fragment, and zigzag through their small bodies on impact. This weapon and setup was selected for one reason: maximum carnage in the shortest period of time.

The cost of doing nothing is more of the same: the blood of America's schoolchildren. There is a non-zero chance that your child or grandchild could be murdered in school while trying to memorize their multiplication tables.

It hasn't always been this way.

There are things that should never happen again.

Move your feet.

You have a chance to make meaningful change to this session and make sure Minnesota's children have safer schools and communities. I hope you will join me and other Annunciation families by spreading light and voting yes on HF3433 (Greenman) and HF2402 (Tabke)

Sincerely,  
John "Jake" Kelly  
312 Prospect Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55419

Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

Please advance HF 3433  
and 3402

Thank you , Jane E. Odgers

St.Cloud

February 23, 2026  
10666 First Timberlane Dr.  
Northfield, MN

Dear Rep. Ellen McDaniel,

I am writing to urge passage of two bills that are desperately needed to help protect our children, schools, and all of us from gun violence. The bills are:

1. HF 3433, Assault Weapons Bans
2. HF3402, High Capacity Magazines

I just listened to expert testimony from Dr. Marc Gorelick, a pediatrician who has worked many years in hospitals and ERs. Gun injury is now the leading cause of childhood death in the US. Each day 12 children die from gun deaths. If a child is hit with a high capacity bullet from an assault weapon, death is almost certain.

Michael Orange, the leader of MN Veterans for Peace, described how devastating the wounds are from high capacity assault weapons. They explode in a way that spirals through the body, damaging multiple organs and tissue. These rifles and bullets were designed to be very lethal for use in war. 85% of mass shooting deaths are the result of these weapons. They are the weapon of choice for mass killings. States that have prohibited similar laws saw a 40% reduction in school victims.

Brittany Haeg spoke of the continuing treatment and trauma to her child who was shot at the Annunciation School in Minneapolis last fall. Her child still has many medical appointments and ongoing treatment. The bullets contain lead, causing poisoning in addition to the damage to limb and tissue. There is also the emotional trauma and PTSD. Survivors suffer long term from these injuries.

There is no use for these weapons in the civilian sphere, and they must be banned. Polls show that 70% of Minnesotans support banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines. This is broad, bipartisan support. Please listen to what Minnesotans are saying. The time to pass this legislation is now.

Sincerely,  
Jane Rinehart

Sharlene James-Whited  
7114 Whitehall Road  
Shakopee, MN 55379  
[sjameswhited@gmail.com](mailto:sjameswhited@gmail.com)  
(612)516-1934

February 23, 2026

The Honorable Ellen McDaniel  
Public Safety Committee Administrator  
[Ellen.McDaniel@house.mn.gov](mailto:Ellen.McDaniel@house.mn.gov)

**RE: Support for HF 3402**

Dear Representative McDaniel

My name is Sharlene James-Whited and I am a resident of Shakopee (54A). I am writing to urge your strong support for HF 3402, the Banning of High-Capacity Magazines, which would make it illegal to buy or possess magazines containing more than ten rounds.

High-capacity magazines make violent attacks exceptionally deadly, and states that restrict them have fewer and less lethal mass shootings than states without such limits. Firearm injuries are now the leading cause of death for children and adolescents in the United States. Reducing the lethality of weapons in public spaces directly supports kids' ability to travel to and from school (and simply grow up).

I urge you to vote in favor of [Bill Number] when it comes before you. Thank you for your leadership and for considering my views as a constituent. I look forward to hearing your position on this matter.

Sincerely,

Sharlene James-Whited  
Sharlene James-Whited

22 February 2026

I am writing with regard to HF 3042 regarding semiautomatic military-style assault weapons in Minnesota:

As a child I did some target shooting with my father using a simple rifle that I thought he brought home from WWII. That may not have been true, but it definitely fired one bullet at a time and had to be reloaded regularly. It provided an opportunity to learn how to deal with the kickback and work on my aim.

Having spoken with many hunters and sport shooters, I learned that only one or a small number of bullets at a time should be needed to kill their prey or hit the clay target. Most have opined that a larger ammunition capacity is not needed for hunting, skeet shooting, or other sport shooting.

I understand that most of the mass-shooting events in this state and country we carried out using large capacity magazines. Most recently, in the horrific shooting at the Church of the Annunciation School in Minneapolis, the use of such a magazine enabled 23 people to be shot in a short period of time.

I have been terribly saddened by the wanton loss of life we see here in the USA during repeated mass shootings. Therefore, I support banning or limiting as much as possible the possession of high capacity magazines that would be covered by this bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

JoAnn Pasternack  
1854 Walsh Lane  
Mendota Heights, MN 55118

Monday, February 23, 2025

House Public Safety Finance and Policy

Dear Co-Chair Moller, Co-Chair Novotny, and members of the committee:

I'm a mom of a student that attends Annunciation Catholic School. August 27th has forever changed our family and our community.

August 27, 2025 forever changed our lives. Only two days earlier we made the momentous and bittersweet step of sending our first born off to her first day of kindergarten. Filled with tears and mixed emotions we sent her into the world of academic education, feeling confident that we had chosen a school that would foster a sense of security for her so that she could flourish. The morning of the 27th we dropped her off like normal, we hugged and kissed her goodbye and told her to have a great day and that we loved her. Mom would be there to pick her up from school in the afternoon. Little did we know we came close to never picking her up from school again.

Around 9:30 that morning my husband yelled for me to come out of my office in our basement as he rushed down the stairs. In my heart I knew something was terribly wrong. Then I picked up my phone, which had been face down on my desk. Hundreds of calls and texts asking if our daughter was okay and praying for our family. My heart sank. My husband said "I think there was a shooting at Annunciation". We live six blocks from school so we took off running. I remember approaching the intersection of Lyndale and 54th and my whole body started shaking. More emergency vehicles than I had seen in one place in my entire life. Yellow crime scene tape blocking off the entire block. Officers with huge guns patrolling. I knew then the magnitude of the unthinkable had happened. The officer monitoring the entrance to the taped off area took one look at our faces and said, "You're parents, follow me this way". They asked for our daughter's name and sent us into the auditorium where we were met with pure chaos. Kids sitting everywhere, holding each other and sobbing. Others with blood on their clothes with blank faces, completely in shock. Parents holding children. And nowhere was my daughter. We walked in circles around the auditorium, searching for her or anyone from her class and all I could think was "they are all gone". After ten excruciating minutes of searching, an officer approached us and directed us to the gymnasium. There she was, our innocent, 38 pound, five year old girl, standing ramrod straight, looking straight ahead. Words cannot describe the relief I felt when I saw her and my arms could wrap around her little body. Her amazing teacher was there, with the remaining kindergarten children. We hugged, crying, and I asked what I could do. "I don't know", she said in shock. Her children had been inside the church but there she was protecting her class of the youngest kids in the school.

Our bright, outgoing daughter spent the rest of the morning hiding in a fort she had made, something she had never done before. Over the coming days and weeks she had horrible nightmares, waking in terror, yelling in our bed. She had temper tantrums like a two year old as we held her and told her she was safe. She slowly started to share what she had experienced. Hiding in a small space inside her classroom. Hearing lots of really loud noises. Everyone was

crying and the teachers were telling them the helpers were coming. And, most impactful for her, seeing "so many bloody kids" while waiting in the gymnasium. My little girl, who had never heard a gunshot in her life, ran in terror inside when our neighbors had their roof replaced in October. My little girl, who has only known love in her life, speaks with perfect clarity about Fletcher and Harper who live in Heaven now because someone bad killed them with a gun. My little girl, who I thought was dead for the worst twenty minutes of my life as we frantically searched for her in what looked like a war zone, only six blocks from our home.

These are not things any parent should ever have to process. These are fears that should never come to fruition. Her entire school journey will forever be tainted with this horror that she encountered only three days into kindergarten. We can prevent this. We can lessen the tragic impact of individuals who are struggling with mental illness who resort to violence. It is our responsibility, our duty and our privilege, to protect our babies. It isn't a choice. It is an obligation.

You have a chance to make meaningful change to this session and make sure Minnesota's children have safer schools and communities. I hope you will join me and other Annunciation families by spreading light and voting yes on HF3433 (Greenman) and HF2402 (Tabke).

Sincerely,  
Kaila Jordan Lillehei

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy  
1 Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Kathryn Burns, and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402 — bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high-capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a proud Minnesota resident and a mother of young children in our public schools. Every morning when I drop them off, I am forced into a calculation no parent should ever have to make: *Is today the day something happens?* I should not have to wonder whether I need to talk to my children about impossible choices — whether they should hide, whether they should run, whether they should try to shield a friend. I am their mother. It is my instinct, my biological wiring, to protect them. Yet every school day, I am not there. I cannot stand between them and harm. And if the unthinkable were to happen — if violence touched our school or our neighborhood — we would carry those scars together for the rest of our lives. Sleepless nights. Nightmares replaying moments no child should ever see. Hard questions I could never fully answer. And the haunting reality that survival would feel less like relief and more like a lifelong recovery. School should be a place of growth and safety — not a place where children rehearse their own survival.

I am testifying today because this constant normalization of risk is changing us. As parents, we adapt to protect our children — but adaptation is not the same as acceptance. We have unintentionally trained ourselves to live with a level of danger that would have once been unimaginable.

Since 2015, each of the highest-casualty mass shootings has involved an assault weapon and a high-capacity magazine. What the highest-casualty mass shootings have in common is the use of an assault weapon and high-capacity magazine — weapons designed to fire many rounds, extremely quickly, causing catastrophic damage in seconds.

My experience as a parent leads me to emphasize this: inaction is also a choice. When we delay action, we communicate that this level of risk is tolerable. Human behavior research tells us that when harmful patterns become familiar, they become normalized — and normalization reduces urgency. But our children deserve urgency — and a future.

Prayers and thoughts may comfort us, but they do not interrupt a firing mechanism. Humans — and human decisions — stop gun violence. Policy is one of the most powerful tools we have to shape safer environments.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this critical legislation.

Kathryn Burns

## **Testimony in Katie Anderson for HF 3433 and HF 3402**

*Minnesota House Public Safety, Finance and Policy*

*1 Judiciary Committee*

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Katie Anderson, and I am writing today to urge you to support HF 3433 and HF 3402. These bills would prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons, and prohibit the manufacturing, transfer, ownership, or possession of high-capacity magazines, respectively.

I am a resident of Minneapolis, a wife, and a mother of two young children. I am testifying today because, as a teacher, I have experienced firsthand the impact that the proliferation of firearms has on school communities. When I taught in Chicago, my school went into lockdown multiple times because of shootings just outside our building. These incidents created an unsafe and frightening environment for both students and staff.

Since returning to Minnesota in 2017, I have continued to feel the persistent fear associated with being a teacher in today's political and social climate. Several times each year, I must talk my students through what we would do if someone carrying a weapon entered our school. We don't just discuss it—we practice it, because we are told that in emergencies, preparation must become muscle memory. This reality is deeply traumatic for children.

It is astonishing to me that, as a country, we have normalized training children how to respond to violence in their classrooms instead of prioritizing reasonable, meaningful restrictions on particularly dangerous weapons. This environment does not only affect students; it affects teachers as well. I have sat through trainings in which school resource officers and law enforcement simulate crisis scenarios and ask us to react in real time: What would you do? What would you say? How would you position your body? This is not what educators are trained to do. We are trained to teach children to be thoughtful, capable, and compassionate members of society—not to prepare them for armed threats in their classrooms.

We do not yet fully understand the long-term impact these experiences will have on our children, but I do know that as both a teacher and a mother, I am forced to prioritize conversations about school violence with my students and with my own child. That reality represents a profound break in our system and in our sense of normalcy.

School shootings are becoming far too frequent and far too close to home. I urge you to consider the very real harm these weapons have caused—and will continue to cause—if action is not taken. It is possible to respect responsible gun ownership while also enacting common-sense measures that protect children and communities.

I strongly encourage members of this committee to vote yes on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your commitment to the safety of Minnesota's children.

Sincerely,

Katie Anderson

3304 21<sup>st</sup> Ave S.

Minneapolis, MN 55407

My name is Katie Cvelbar and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine.

I am a resident of the Kenny Neighbored where I live with my husband and two young children. Everyday, I walk or drive past Annunciation, I am devastated by the shooting and the thoughts that we failed to keep those children safe. After watching the two Gun Violence Prevention Group Sessions, I am terrified we will do nothing impactful to lessen the devastation of the next mass shooting. I dread the day I need to send my children to school.

The devastation at Annunciation leads me to believe we need to ban high capacity magazines and assault riffles. Shootings involving high-capacity magazines have more fatalities and wounds than those that do not. Since 2015, each of the highest-casualty mass shootings has involved an assault weapon and a high-capacity magazine. These types of weapons and magazines are not designed for our neighborhoods but for war with the objective to kill as many people possible in the shortest amount of time.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Katie Cvelbar  
Moms Demand Action Volunteer  
5400 Fremont Ave South  
Minneapolis

Dear Co-Chairs Moller and Novotny and Members of the House Public Safety Committee,

This letter is to show my support of HF3433 and HF3402. As the parent of a first grader, I send my child to school every day knowing the realities of school shootings in our country and state. Please pass these bills to help in the prevention of gun violence and let our children grow up in a world of safety, not fear.

Thank you,

Kati Falencykowski

Minneapolis resident

Testimony of Kevin Erickson for HF 3433 and HF 3402  
Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy

Judiciary Committee Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Kevin Erickson and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a resident of Duluth, MN, and a parent of five children in two public schools and one university. I have been volunteering in gun violence prevention for over two years because gun violence is the number one cause of death for children and teens in the United States.

I am testifying today because I watched in the with the rest of the country as police failed to protect students at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX because they were outgunned by a shooter with an assault weapon. In August of 2025, a shooter with an assault weapon opened fire at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis. My experience leads me to emphasize that no one is safe anywhere when assault weapons and high capacity magazines are openly available to the public. From 2015 to 2022, the mass shootings in which four or more people were killed that involved an assault weapon resulted in nearly six times as many people shot, more than twice as many people killed, and 23 times as many people wounded on average compared to those that did not involve the use of one. We don't have to live like this. Our children don't have to die like this.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and 3402. Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation. Sincerely,

Kevin Erickson

Testimony of Kristina Degiovanni for HF 3433 and HF 3402  
Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense In America  
Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy

Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,  
My name is Kristina Degiovanni and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a resident in rural West Central MN, a mother, a pharmacist in skilled nursing homes, and a gun owner with beautiful family traditions of coming together and hunting on our land.

I am testifying today because:

Allowing the sale and use of assault weapons and high capacity magazines is NOT responsible gun ownership. It is reckless. I became an active volunteer with the St. Cloud Mom's Demand Action group after the mass shooting in Ulvalde TX where 19 students and two adults were murdered with an AR-15 rifle. Prior to this while I was in high school in 2003, 3.5 miles from our Farm in Cold Spring there was school shooting that shattered our graduating class and community. Most recently of course, we also have the Annunciation Catholic School shooting which now as a mother has me working towards gun sense legislation even more so. We can make these changes in law, and still keep to all our beautiful roots of hunting with firearms in greater Minnesota. There is an obvious difference between firearms used to hunt game, and weapons of MASS DESTRUCTION designed to do the most damage in the least amount of time.

My experience leads me to emphasize an assault weapon and high capacity magazine ban in the state of Minnesota is long overdue.

From 2015 to 2022, the mass shootings in which four or more people were killed that involved an assault weapon resulted in nearly six times as many people shot, more than twice as many people killed, and 23 times as many people wounded on average compared to those that did not involve the use of one.

**I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.**

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

2/23/2026

Ellen McDaniel  
Committee Administrator, DFL Caucus  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee and Ethics Committee

Re: In support of HF 3433 and HF 3402

Dear Ms. McDaniel:

I write in support of HF 3433 and HF 3402, which would ban the sale and transfer of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

I have come to believe that most law-abiding owners of legally obtained assault weapons are also concerned about reducing gun violence and especially its effects on our children. However, they insist that other factors are actually at the root of mass shootings, e.g., inadequate mental health and unsafe schools. Many owners feel attacked for defending their perceived right to use and protect themselves and their families with these weapons; and they feel unjustly blamed for gun crimes committed by others.

I understand why people treasure their assault weapons. During my year in combat in Vietnam, I lavished more care on my assault rifle than any other object in my life. If you're unfamiliar with them, it's hard to understand this near-reverential respect. The design of the AR-15 rifle is ingenious. This is not your grandfather's 30.06 hunting rifle. It's known as "the Swiss Army knife of rifles" due to its modularity. You can easily swap out parts like sights, scopes, grips, lasers, flashlights, etc. This flexibility, plus their high accuracy with minimal recoil, make them the most popular rifle in the country.

Tragically, their ability to accommodate high-capacity magazines, up to 100 rounds each, makes them the weapon of choice for mass shooters. More than 85% of mass shooting deaths were caused by shooters with assault rifles.<sup>1</sup>

Many gun-rights voters incorrectly assume the bills before the Legislature would ban possession when, in fact, they call for grandfathering legally obtained weapons provided their owners register them.<sup>2</sup> But many still see registration as a step towards confiscation, and believe they have a "God-given" constitutional right to own them. They are wrong on both counts.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Giffords.

<sup>2</sup> Fortunately, HF 3433 does not grandfather high-capacity magazines. There are zero civilian purposes for them—only for mass shooters.

Since the adoption of the first state ban almost four decades ago in California, the bans in 10 states and D.C. have survived multiple court challenges. Studies show that state bans are effective. They reduced the number of school shooting victims by 54%.<sup>3</sup>

The U.S. Supreme Court's Heller decision established that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense in the home. The decision carved out exceptions for weapons that are "predominantly useful in military service." Gun-rights advocates base their constitutional-right argument by asserting that their weapons are not "weapons of war."

The history of the AR-15 contradicts that belief. The original ArmaLite AR-15, designed 70 years ago, was an automatic rifle intended for military use. Later, Colt Firearms marketed it to the military as the M16, and then modified it for civilian use as a semi-automatic rifle. This is the only significant difference between its military and civilian versions. However, anyone who served in the infantry knows that automatic fire is only useful for suppressive fire on the battlefield to enable maneuvering. Otherwise, it just a waste of ammunition. To aim and hit a target, both military and civilian assault rifles function the same.

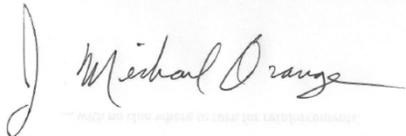
In fact, the AR-15 is more powerful than the current military assault rifle, the M4, which replaced the M16 more than 25 years ago.<sup>4</sup> But what is more important is that they both fire high-powered ammunition that can tumble and fragment upon impact, which makes them horribly deadly—by design for war.

For example, a friend of mine and a fellow Vietnam combat vet, described how an M16 bullet that had entered an enemy soldier's left wrist, bored through his arm, chest, torso, and then a bullet fragment exited out his right thigh. That's the kind of power these rounds have.

I witnessed this lethality in Vietnam. I watched from 30 feet away as two little boys, maybe 9 or 10 years old, ran away from a bomb they had prematurely set off on our fire support base. The assault rifle rounds from my fellow Marines shredded their little bodies, exploded their faces, tore them apart. The memory haunts me still.

I applaud the courage of the legislators who are willing to write, sponsor, and support these bills, and to face the inevitable onslaught of opposition, spin, and outright lies from the gun lobby. Thank you for your commitment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Orange". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

USMC, Vietnam combat veteran, 1969-70

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<sup>3</sup> Source: "The effects of state and Federal gun control laws on school shootings," Mark Gius, *Applied Economics Letters*, 4/19/2017.

<sup>4</sup> The following is a comparison of the power and lethality of the two most common rounds (5.56 NATO and .223 Remington, both with 55-grain bullets) as fired by a typical AR-15-style rifle versus the M16 and the M4: When firing either 5.56 NATO or .223 Remington rounds, the muzzle velocity of an AR-15 has a greater muzzle velocity than the M4—7% greater firing 5.56 NATO and 4% greater firing .223 Remington.

Testimony of Leah Kondes for HF 3433 and HF 3402

Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Leah Kondes, and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning or possessing a high-capacity magazine, respectively.

I am the mother of three daughters. The oldest one was born in March of 1999, the month before semi-automatic weapons were used to kill thirteen people at Columbine High School in Colorado. My youngest daughter, just since I started volunteering with Moms Demand Action in 2019, has been at the mall for one of their shootings and the state fair for one of their shootings, and her campus was recently on lockdown due to the threat of gun violence.

I am testifying today because we the adults – the one that brought these children here – need to do something to protect kids against gun violence, the number one killer of children and teens in our country. I live less than two miles from Annunciation Church. What happened there easily could have happened at the church I attended for more than two decades, which is also less than two miles from Annunciation. While school shootings (or in this case a church shooting) are statistically rare, they are not rare enough. And these are not the first school shootings in Minnesota. There was a shooting in Red Lake in 2005 in which 10 people were killed with semi-automatic weapons. There was also a shooting at Rocori High School in 2003 in which two students were killed with a semi-automatic pistol.

While no single piece of legislation will eliminate all gun violence, we need to start somewhere and take a public health approach to reduce gun violence. Starting with weapons designed to shoot a lot of people very quickly, and to shoot bullets at such high velocity that even someone who is not wounded by a bullet but is grazed and impacted enough to suffer negative consequences, seems like a good place to start.

My experience leads me to emphasize the prohibition of high-capacity magazines.

A 2018 study estimates that guns equipped with high-capacity magazines, which include assault weapons and other semiautomatic firearms, account for 22 to 36 percent of crime guns in most places, with some estimates upward of 40 percent for cases involving serious violence, including homicides of law enforcement officers. And the problem may be getting worse: research

suggests that the prevalence of high-capacity magazines in guns used in crimes has grown substantially since the 2004 expiration of the federal prohibition on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy

1 Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Liz Council Choate and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a St. Paul resident with a 2 year old daughter. I am testifying today because I grew up in the shadow of Columbine. Every school shooting I've known of in my lifetime has been horrifying, but since having a child it is particularly excruciating to know that kids have gone to school and been killed by gun violence. I am sick to my stomach knowing that another day will come when there's breaking news about mass casualties at a school. I can't guarantee my daughter will be safe.

My experience leads me to emphasize what the highest-casualty mass shootings have in common: use of an assault weapon and high-capacity magazine.

Since 2015, each of the highest-casualty mass shootings has involved an assault weapon and a high-capacity magazine.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy

1 Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Molly Chase, and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high-capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a Minnesota mom of a kindergartener, as well as a Moms Demand Action volunteer. My family lives less than four miles from Annunciation. That shooting hit close to home in every way.

I am testifying today because:

- My kindergartener's first experiences at school included her first active shooter drill.
- I can't stop thinking about children in Annunciation's chapel throwing their bodies over younger kids. It is not an elementary student's job to protect children; that's *our* job. It is immoral for adults to pretend nothing can be done.

My experience leads me to emphasize that assault weapons are exceptionally deadly, both because of to the number of bullets fired and the horrific damage those bullets do to a person's body.

- Assault weapons are exceptionally deadly weapons commonplace in mass shootings. Assault weapons are generally capable of firing far more bullets, far faster than manual-action hunting rifles. In addition, each round fired from an assault weapon has a muzzle energy much higher than a bullet fired from a handgun. This means that *each round of an assault style rifle inflicts greater damage to the human body than a round from a typical handgun—and these guns can fire many, many of these high-powered rounds extremely fast.*

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Molly Malone  
8061 Timber Lake Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

February 22, 2026

Attn: Ellen McDaniel  
658 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Co-Chairs Moller and Novotny and Members of the House Public Safety Committee:

I am writing to express my sincere support of HF 3433 and HF 3402 and to urge you to do the same.

As a lifelong Minnesotan, I have always taken pride in our common-sense decision-making and believe we collectively do the right thing when facing threats to our life and liberty, especially when it comes to kids. Banning semiautomatic military-style assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines should be an easy decision. We all have a moral responsibility to do what we can to keep our most valuable resource here in Minnesota, our children, safe from war-place threats.

Gun violence is the number one cause of premature death in this country, and the weapons these bills target amplify the horrors of this problem. We have an opportunity in Minnesota to do something to limit the harm.

As you consider these bills, I ask each member of this committee to picture your own children, grandchildren, or others you love in that worst-case scenario, and then ask yourself if their lives are precious enough to take a stand. One cannot claim to be pro-life if you allow these war-like weapons to continue to senselessly take life in our beloved state.

Thank you for your consideration,



Molly Malone

February 23, 2026

Dear Chairs Moller, Novotny and members of the Committee

My name is Katie Najjar, I am the mother to 3 children, 2 of which attend Annunciation Catholic School. The mass shooting event of August 27th has forever changed our family and our community.

On the morning of August 27<sup>th</sup>, I had just dropped my youngest child off at his first day of school. My other children were already on campus at Annunciation, and I planned to go about my normal day until I was due to pick them up later in the afternoon. Less than an hour later, I received the worst phone call of my entire life. It was my 10 year old daughter screaming "Mom, you have to come pick us up NOW!" I raced the 3 miles to school where I was hit with the news: while my children, their classmates, teachers, other parents and neighbors were in mass, 116 bullets shattered glass and pews in less than 2 minutes, killing 2 children and devastating hundreds of lives forever. Now, my family lives every day with the grief and trauma of surviving a mass murder.

My children were physically unharmed during the assault at their school. They came home that day in uniforms torn from shrapnel and emotional scars that are unseen but will never fade. The safe space where they celebrated school mass, First Holy Communion and witnessed their cousin graduate was turned into a war zone and a place where they will never, ever feel safe to enter again. They suffer from physical trauma symptoms like stomach aches, fainting, shortness of breath. And emotional trauma responses like anxiety, trouble coping in busy environments, and fear from loud noises. We have, and will continue to spend, hours in therapy, counseling, and interruptions in our every day lives.

You have a chance this session to make sure no other children have to go through what mine have. You have a chance to show up as a lawmaker, not a democrat or a republican, to pass a bill that will create safer schools and communities. This issue is not abstract, it's not policy, it is the real lived experience of my children and our family. 70% of Minnesotans don't ask our lawmakers for much, but they are asking NOW that we protect our children.

I hope you will join me and other Annunciation families by spreading light. Please vote yes on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

With hope and joy,  
Katie Najjar  
5012 Russell Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55410

Dear Co-Chairs Moller and Novotny and Members of the House Public Safety Committee,

This letter is to show my support of HF3433 and HF3402. As the grandparents of a first grader and a 2 year old, we worry every day that they will be safe at school and daycare. Even places like grocery stores and parks. Please pass these bills to help in the prevention of gun violence and let our grandchildren grow up in a safer community.

Thank you,

Pam and Doug Lundell

Plymouth residents

Testimony of Sarah Geistfeld for HF 3433 and HF 3402

Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Sarah Geistfeld, and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a resident of St. Louis Park, and formerly a resident of the Windom neighborhood of South Minneapolis where the Annunciation School is located.

I am testifying today because my oldest son, who turns 5 years old today, will attend kindergarten this fall, and I am terrified. What should be a happy milestone is overshadowed by concern for his safety. Every decision, from what school he should attend to whether or not he can have light-up shoes, demands consideration from this angle. Assault weapons can claim lives in seconds, and as a parent I live in constant fear that my child could be next.

Between 2015 and 2022, mass shootings with four or more people killed where assault weapons were used resulted in nearly six times as many people shot per incident on average. Banning these weapons of war in our state is a common-sense solution to reduce the number of people killed or injured by gun violence in Minnesota each year.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy  
1 Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Sean Dillon and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a resident of the South Minneapolis.

I am testifying today because:

- I live less than a mile of Annunciation Catholic Church and School. While already horrified at the gun violence in our state and country — especially toward children — the immediacy of this event brought home the human cost of our current gun policies in a deeply personal way.

My experience leads me to emphasize what the highest-casualty mass shootings have in common: use of an assault weapon and high-capacity magazine. today. (Keep this to one or two sentences. Short and succinct to keep attention.)

Since 2015, each of the highest-casualty mass shootings has involved an assault weapon and a high-capacity magazine.

These weapons and magazines are designed to kill many people quickly, and serve no reasonable self-defense need that isn't met equally well by other products. I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Testimony of Sherry Stoll for HF 3433 and HF 3402  
Volunteer with America/Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense In America

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy

Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Sherry Stoll and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a Minnesota resident and live about a ten minute drive from Annunciation Catholic School. I am specifically testifying today because I am SICK of children dying from mass shootings. If there is ANY way we can help save ONE child's life why are we not doing it? You can say it is more complicated than that, but really it's not. We have chosen to say children's lives are not a priority. Yes, mass shootings could have increased due to other factors too, so lets address those AS WELL. This is NOT prohibiting our 2nd amendment right.

The day the shooting occurred at Annunciation was my daughter's first day of second grade. She goes to school at an Edina public school so I had a feeling she was safe since I heard the shooting was in south Minneapolis, but I did hear her school went into lock-down mode to be safe before more information was released. I heard this about an hour after she got to school on her first day. And I was trying to understand the situation at Annunciation all morning, checking my phone, hearing information from other moms. It was very stressful for everyone in the Minneapolis area. I know I am not alone in this experience at all, and I am grateful our community was safe, this time. I cannot imagine what the Annunciation families felt that day and are still feeling and dealing with as I write this.

My experience leads me to emphasize the need to make mass shootings more difficult. While I am not sure what the magazine capacity of the Annunciation shooter's AR-15 rifle was, I have read that the Uvalde, TX shooter used 30-round magazines and killed 21 people inside the elementary school. Who would still be alive if they were not able to get access to these magazines?

And, as you may know, between 2015 to 2022, the mass shootings in which four or more people were killed that involved a firearm equipped with a **high-capacity magazine** resulted in nearly five times as many people shot, more than twice as many people killed, and nearly 10 times as many people wounded on average compared to those that did not involve the use of one.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.  
Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

With sincere hopes that our politicians can protect its community members,  
Sherry Stoll



Testimony of Chad Kuyper for HF 3433 and HF 3402

Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny, and Committee Members,

My name is Chad Kuyper and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons, and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high-capacity magazine, respectively.

I'm a professor at Normandale Community College, which underwent a major construction project a few years ago. At a faculty meeting where the contractors explained our new office setup to us, the discussion point that took the most time and drew the most impassioned opinions was not whether our new offices were accessible to students with disabilities. It was not whether the restrooms were ideally situated; it wasn't even the coffee machine's new location.

It was whether our new offices were properly defended against an active shooter armed with an assault rifle.

Professors from every discipline peppered their questions with words like "sightlines" and "access points," and as the discussion wore on, I could feel myself getting angry that this is our new normal, an outlandish status quo enabled by civilian access to weapons of war.

Banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines is not a drastic step; in fact, we had just such a ban on the federal level for years. A study found that this ban was associated with a significant decrease in public mass shootings and related casualties, preventing at least 11 public mass shootings during the 10 years it was in effect. The researchers also

estimated that had the law remained in effect from 2005 through 2019, it would have prevented 30 mass shootings that resulted in the death of 339 people and wounded 1,139 more.

Our state still bears the scars of Annunciation. Teachers and students go to class wondering if their school will be the site of the next tragedy – because there *will* be one. This is not what freedom what looks like. This is not what law and order looks like. Banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines is common sense, and I urge members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this urgent legislation.

Testimony of Dayna Harrell for HF 3433 and HF 3402

Volunteer with Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America/Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense In America

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy  
Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Dayna Harrell and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I grew up in Mound, currently reside in Wayzata, and work hybrid from home and my downtown Minneapolis office. I have lived in Minnesota my entire life, as has my entire extended family and want what's best for our community.

I am testifying today because I was 8 when I first heard the news of Columbine, impacting a community close to where my mom grew up in Colorado. I was 12 when my future husband's childhood friend was the first victim of gun violence in Minnesota schools. On August 27, 2025, my husband's former coworker had to experience the death of his grandchild, Fletcher, as a result of the shooting at Annunciation Catholic School. My own son, a 4-year old at Notre Dame Academy, a Catholic school in Minnetonka that is affiliated with Annunciation, was put on lockdown his second day of preschool out of an abundance of caution for his safety. Since I was 8, and now as I raise my own children, I have known the fear and terror gun violence has caused in our communities, especially our schools. It doesn't have to be this way.

I am writing to implore you to act immediately on gun reform in Minnesota. As the daughter-in-law of a former police chief, I understand the impact that mass shooting events, as well as unfettered access to the assault weapons and magazines used to inflict maximum damage, have on the lives of victims as well as first responders. Since 2015, each of the highest-casualty mass shootings has involved an assault weapon and a high-capacity magazine. What we are seeing and experiencing is preventable, even if violence won't be eradicated overnight.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.  
Dayna Harrell

Testimony of Julianna Gilkinson for HF 3433 and HF3402

Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and committee members,

My name is Julianna Gilkinson and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF3402 bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and the prohibition of manufacturing , transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine.

I am a mother and grandmother in Rochester where I have joined the MOMS group because of the rise in gun violence in this country. I worked in Public Health for my career and gun violence has risen to a public health threat that must be addressed. I am horrified that the students need to have these lockdown drills, and my 8-year-old granddaughter worries about a shooter coming to her school.

Assault weapons are for war, not self-protection or hunting. High-capacity magazines are designed to increase the injuries and fatalities. They have no place in our communities. When there was a federal ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, studies found there was a significant decrease in public mass shootings during those 10 years.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF3433 and HF 3402 for the health and safety of our communities and especially the children.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Testimony of Linda Orsted for HF 3433 and HF 3402

volunteer with Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America/Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America:

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy Judiciary Committee Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members:

My name is Linda Orsted and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high-capacity magazine, respectively.

I am a Minnesota resident, a retired librarian, a woman of faith, and a wife and mother.

I am testifying today because I believe every person has the right to feel safe from gun violence in our state. Since the federal government dropped the ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines in 2004, it is up to the states to protect their residents from danger. Assault weapons and high-capacity magazines were designed to be used as weapons of war. They have no place on the streets and open country of Minnesota.

The value of a lost human life is incalculable. However, in monetary terms, gun violence costs Minnesota \$6.6 billion each year, of which \$105.5 million is paid by taxpayers.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Testimony of Ali Bauler for HF 3433 and HF 3402  
Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy  
1 Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Mollie White and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I have been a resident of Apple Valley, MN, for 14 years. I am an active volunteer in my community, a wife, and proud mom of two kids that attend Eastview High School. I am testifying today because I grew up in Minnesota and have family that enjoy the sport of hunting. I support the second amendment and the right to own firearms and understand the need for them.

However, I have also been impacted by gun violence, and so have my two kids with the recent concerns at the schools. There is no need in our society for assault style weapons or high-capacity magazines as they only cause immense harm in a short period of time. They decimate not only human bodies, but families for generations.

To be clear, there is no justification for these weapons outside of war zones. I can only think about how a weapon like this getting into the hands of someone who shouldn't have it could harm my precious children or someone I love. The shootings are getting too frequent and close to home with the most recent being Annunciation. I beg of you to consider the harm these weapons can cause and HAVE caused our community. We can still have guns for rational purposes while protecting our children. I strongly encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation and making safety for our citizens a top priority.

Sincerely,  
Mollie White  
5398 153<sup>rd</sup> Street West  
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy  
1 Judiciary Committee

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

My name is Taj and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3433 and HF 3402, bills to prohibit the transfer, possession, and ownership of assault weapons and to prohibit people from manufacturing, transferring, owning, or possessing a high capacity magazine, respectively.

I am from south Minneapolis and I work with kids in many areas of my professional life.

I am testifying today because:

I've now worked and know too many parents and children that have been deeply impacted by the effects of gun violence. It takes a huge emotional toll of all parties, even if they haven't been directly involved in a particular incident.

My experience leads me to emphasize that assault weapons are exceptionally deadly, both due to the number of bullets fired and the damage those bullets do to the human body.

Assault weapons are exceptionally deadly weapons commonplace in mass shootings. In fact, state assault weapons bans are associated with a lower likelihood of an active shooter event. Assault weapons are generally capable of firing far more bullets, far faster than manual-action hunting rifles. In addition, each round fired from an assault weapon has a muzzle energy much higher than a bullet fired from a handgun. This means that each round of an assault style rifle inflicts greater damage to the human body than a round from a typical handgun—and these guns can fire many, many of these high-powered rounds extremely fast.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3433 and HF 3402.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

22 February 2026

I am writing with regard to HF 3433 regarding semiautomatic military-style assault weapons in Minnesota:

Having done some target shooting with my father when I was a child, and spoken with many hunters and sport shooters, I realize that there is a huge difference between the guns used in sport and the military-style weapons discussed in this bill.

Shooting a single bullet at a time can cause serious damage to the target, be it an animal like a pheasant, duck, or deer; a clay pigeon, or a shooting range target. But a semi-automatic weapon has a much faster rate of firing and generally a larger ammunition capacity, giving them the potential to multiply the damage that can be done within a shorter time.

I understand that most of the mass-shooting events in this state and country we carried out with semi-automatic firearms. Most recently, in the horrific shooting at the Church of the Annunciation School in Minneapolis, the use of such a weapon enabled 23 people to be shot in a short period of time.

I recently spent a year living in France, where the possession of a firearm is very limited and very regulated. French families do not even consider the possibility that their children could be shot to death at school. I felt completely safe there going to public places like shopping malls and concerts because there are so few guns in the community.

I support banning or limiting as much as possible the possession of the weapons that would be covered by this bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

JoAnn Pasternack  
1854 Walsh Lane  
Mendota Heights, MN 55118