

To Committee Chair Representative Moller and members of the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,

Please support HF 4300 and HF 601, for safe storage and reporting of lost and stolen guns.

My husband works in the HCMC Emergency Department, where victims of intentional and accidental gun violence are taken on nearly a daily basis. Our local media reports tragic stories of kids shooting and sometimes killing themselves and others with unsecured, loaded guns. Gun violence is out of control. We can and must do better.

I canvassed hundreds of voters in east metro suburbs last summer and fall, listening to their perspectives on these and other areas of gun safety legislation. I spoke with gun owners, non-gun owners, former gun-owners, gun collectors, Republicans, Democrats, independent/unaffiliated voters, military and law enforcement officers and their family members. Safe storage and reporting of lost and stolen guns were the most popular and widely supported gun safety measures that we discussed. People who started the conversation by saying, "I'm a strong 2nd amendment supporter" also supported these bills. Responsible gun owners already do these things. They felt, and I agree, that it's not too much to ask these basic practices of all gun owners.

I'm 64 years old. When I was a kid, the scariest thing we had to do at school was a fire drill – which wasn't scary at all. We all welcomed the chance to get up and out of the classroom, troop down the hall, and out into the recess yard. My heart breaks when I think of kids now doing active shooter drills, helping to barricade classroom doors, and asking my friends who are teachers, "would you take a bullet for me?" Pre-schoolers are given lollipops if they hide quietly in a closet during an active shooter drill that is called something else, so as not to scare the kids. It's obscene.

Safe storage and reporting are widely supported by significant majorities of voters, across party lines and among gun owners and non-gun owners alike. Please support both HF 4300 and HF 601 and help us start to reverse the craziness of gun violence in our country.

Thank you for your service and your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Deborah Zvosec
Minneapolis, MN