

Michael Gelhar

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February 28, 2024

To: The House Public Safety & Children and Families Committees

HF 4300 - "Safe" Storage Bill

I am against the "safe" storage legislation being proposed in the Minnesota House and Senate.

This bill complicates very personal issues of self-defense in one's home. As a responsible gun owner who already employs reasonable safety precautions with firearms in my home, I believe this bill is not good legislation.

I have the following concerns with this bill:

- In terms of rapid response to potentially violent crimes committed against me or my family within my home, this bill would restrict my ability to defend myself or my family in my home with reasonable force until law enforcement arrives.
- It equates the proper way of storing a firearm in rural Minnesota with how one might store a firearm with children in the home in the metro.
- It provides a one-size-fits-all, incomplete legislative solution to a fake "problem"
- Today, prosecutors do not prosecute the existing crime around safe storage, and the legislature wants to create yet another crime for political optics. Before new laws are created, the existing laws should be enforceable.

HF 601 - Mandatory Lost and Stolen Reporting

I am against the Mandatory Lost and Stolen Reporting legislation being proposed in the Minnesota House and Senate.

My opposition is based on the following two challenges the bill fails to resolve:

- This bill allows the State of Minnesota to criminalize the victim of a crime for failing to report that crime – something we do not do with any other victim of any other crime.
- Allows individuals who do not know of a burglary or theft within a subjective timeframe to be charged with a crime for not reporting a theft they were unaware of – such as firearms stolen while a homeowner was on vacation, just as one example.

No citizen of a free state should be able to be charged with a crime when they had no criminal intent, did not act with willful recklessness, and could not have foreseen the criminal consequences of their victimization.

I am a member and/or supporter of the Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus. They speak for me in Saint Paul.

Signed, Michael Gelhar