

Testimony of Angie Lillehei for HF 4362  
Position: PRO

Volunteer for Gun Violence Prevention

Minnesota House Higher Education Finance and Policy

Chair Wolgamott, Chair Robbins and Committee Members,

My name is Angie Lillehei and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 4362, a bill that would allow public postsecondary institutions to establish policies that restrict the carry or possession of firearms by visitors while on the institution's property.

I have a loved one who is a survivor at Annunciation, which has made gun violence prevention my passion.

I am testifying today because:

My personal experience as a public health professional and my personal experience with a school shooting leads me to support gun safety laws for all schools..

Post-Annunciation, the sight of a firearm on campus would only inflame already high anxiety around gunfire on school grounds in Minnesota. And the bill would not force all campuses to bar visitors from carrying. It would empower each campus to make the decision that's right for them, returning local control to each school.

Gun owners with a permit to carry are already barred from carrying on K-12 school grounds, both public and private -- it makes sense to extend this to community colleges and state universities, which have been the sites of some of the most notorious shootings in our country. Let's keep all schools safe and protect our students.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on SF 4362.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Testimony of Carla Gillespie in Support of HF 4362

Chair Wolgamott, Chair Robbins, and Committee Members,

My name is Carla Gillespie. I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 4362, a bill that would allow public postsecondary institutions to establish policies that restrict the carry or possession of firearms by visitors while on the institution's property.

This is common-sense legislation that would provide a safe learning environment for students and help faculty and staff feel more at ease as they do the noble work of nurturing young minds that will be the future leaders of our communities, state and country.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 4362.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Carla Gillespie

## **Testimony of Anne Suchomel for HF 4362**

Minnesota House Higher Education Finance and Policy

Chair Wolgamott, Chair Robbins, and Committee Members,

My name is Anne Suchomel and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 4362, a bill that would allow public postsecondary institutions to establish policies that restrict the carry or possession of firearms by visitors while on the institution's property.

I am the parent of grown child whose work takes them onto college campuses with some frequency and who often feels fearful when that is the case. I am testifying today because everyone attending classes or visiting for whatever reason should have the assurance that if the campus has gun restrictions they should apply to anyone on the campus. We have all seen many examples of our young people shot and often killed where they should have had every right to feel safe.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 4362.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

## Testimony of Chad Kuyper for HF 4362

### Minnesota House Higher Education Finance and Policy

Chair Wolgamott, Chair Robbins, and Committee Members,

My name is Chad Kuyper and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 4362, a bill that would allow public postsecondary institutions to establish policies that restrict the carry or possession of firearms by visitors while on the institution's property.

I am a full-time professor and chair of the Department of Communication at Normandale Community College. I'm going to start with a confession: I love my job. I'm a firm believer in the community college mission – that education should be accessible to all – and selecting a career that allows me to help shape the minds and improve the lives of Minnesotans has been one of the best decisions I've ever made.

Which is why the shooting at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis last August was not just an unimaginable tragedy – to any educator, it was a desecration of a space that we hold sacred: our school grounds. Anxiety around school shootings has always been elevated among faculty, but it shot sky-high August 27, 2025, and it has not come down since. I personally know several teachers who have quietly revised their careers to include much more online teaching, out of fear of being involved in a scene of mass violence and death at work.

I bring up Annunciation only to provide the context in which Normandale offered up its firearm policy for faculty review. Barely two weeks had passed since the shooting that took place seven miles from our classrooms topped international news headlines. All Normandale faculty received a routine email from HR asking for public comment on Normandale's firearms policy. Faculty were horrified to learn that, while students and employees are barred from carrying a firearm while at Normandale, visitors with a permit to carry are allowed to openly carry while on our campus.

*Faculty who commented on this policy were unanimous in their opposition to it.* Words like “insane,” “chilling,” and “wholly unacceptable” lit up the online comments page. HR then informed us that our policy proceeds from MN Statute 624.714, which provides that private establishments in Minnesota can ban guns inside, whether or not patrons have a permit to carry, but public campuses like ours cannot.

HF 4362 offers an entirely reasonable revision to existing statute. First, and most importantly, it would not force all campuses to bar visitors from carrying. It would empower each campus to make the decision that's right for them, returning local control to each school. Some campuses might be situated in areas where carrying a firearm is a more common practice; others might offer programs like police training skills. It may make perfect sense for these campuses to continue to allow properly-permitted campus visitors to carry. Others, like mine, would like to bar visitors from carrying, but cannot. HF 4362 decreases the role of state government in campus administration, something the putative “party of small government” should want to see.

Second, gun owners with a permit to carry are already barred from carrying on K-12 school grounds, both public and private. It makes sense to extend this prohibition to community colleges and universities, which have been the sites of some of the most notorious shootings in our country.

Finally, Minnesota makes no distinction between concealed and open carry; a gun owner with a permit to carry is currently allowed to openly display their firearm on our campus. HF 4362 enjoys broad support from faculty who recognize the effect the sight of a gun being carried by someone who is not law enforcement would provoke in a student body. Students cannot learn and teachers cannot teach in an environment where threats to physical safety are present. This bill allows each campus to make their own decision to maintain that safety.

I strongly encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 4362. Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Sincerely,  
Chad Kuyper

## **Testimony of Richard Cowles for HF 4362**

Minnesota House Higher Education Finance and Policy

Chair Wolgamott, Chair Robbins, and Committee Members,

My name is Richard Cowles. I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 4362, a bill that would allow public post-secondary institutions to establish policies that restrict the carry or possession of firearms by visitors while on the institution's property.

I am a 70-year resident of Minnesota who is committed to doing everything I can to ensure that my grandchildren grow up and live with the same kind of peace of mind, free of fear of gun violence, that I benefited from in my youth and young adult life.

I am testifying today because:

Higher education should be a time of exploration and growth for mind and spirit, without the inhibiting imposition of fear of gun violence on campus. This bill would extend to community colleges and universities the right to afford the same protection given K-12 students: prohibiting gun owners with a permit to carry from carrying on school grounds. This is a logical step, as some of our nation's most high-profile shootings have occurred on campuses of higher education institutions.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 4362.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

I am writing as a faculty member at Normandale Community College in support of SF 4466 and HF 4326, which contain language allowing the college to set its own firearm policy for campus visitors. I understand that HF 4326 is scheduled for discussion in the Higher Education, Finance, and Policy Committee meeting on March 24.

As we know, school and college firearm assaults and threats continue year after year, with the shootings at Stewartville High School and Annunciation Catholic School just the latest in Minnesota, and varied proposals underway including at the Minnesota Senate and individual K-12 school districts grappling with how to protect children.

State colleges need to close a loophole for campus visitors and have the latitude to limit gun presence on campus and not treat the grounds as truly 'public' space for the purposes of visitors who have conceal-carry permits. Students and staff are already governed by college conduct policies. As public-access institutions of higher learning, college campuses need to be a safe space for learning for everyone, including all ages and those with disabilities who have a Title II right to access to education. I believe that these needs for safety outweigh an individual visitor's right to bring firearms on campus.

Many legislators may not realize how many high school students as young as 15 are taking college courses through the Post-Secondary Education Options program. As an English professor, I teach certain classes that frequently have as many as 75% of students in a course section who are high school students. Rules that protect them on K-12 campuses do not currently protect them from a visitor who wants to bring a handgun or assault rifle onto a state college campus.

In the past few years, after 3 years of 'Covid-era' high school and other stresses, I have seen an increase in student mental health issues, misbehavior and emotional outbursts on campus. Compared to five or ten years ago, subjectively I can report that a greater number of my students are emotionally brittle, anxious and defensive. I've seen similar brittleness and poor emotional regulation among a few parents who show inappropriate behavior and harassment of faculty or staff. I'm sure there is data about whether this reflects general trends in society. We worry that some of these 'visitors' might escalate beyond verbal insults to violence. On the flip side, anxious and hypervigilant or defensive students feel additionally vulnerable to risk of societal violence like assaults on campus.

Give state colleges the ability to close the loophole allowing visitors to bring guns on campus. These visitors should not have the 'right' to let their need for power or personal fears take precedence over freedom from fear and common-sense safety practices on campus.

Thanks for your time.

Alicia Conroy, faculty in English, Normandale Community College, Bloomington, Minn.

## **Testimony of Patty Matthews for HF 4362**

Minnesota House Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee

Chair Wolgamott, Chair Robbins, and Committee Members,

My name is Patty Matthews, and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 4362, a bill that would allow public postsecondary institutions to establish policies restricting the carry or possession of firearms by visitors on institutional property.

I am a lifelong Minnesotan, and my family has attended several postsecondary institutions in our state, including public colleges and universities. We now have grandchildren beginning their college journeys.

I am testifying today because one of my grandchildren has already experienced a gun threat in a public school, where she had to run for safety. That experience was deeply traumatic. Additionally, Minnesota has seen far too many incidents of domestic violence, political violence, and school shootings. All students and educators deserve to feel safe while learning and teaching.

My husband and I have advocated for gun violence prevention for many years, and we see HF 4362 as an important step in that effort. This bill would help ensure that public postsecondary institutions can provide safer environments for students and faculty.

We also support giving all public buildings the option to restrict firearms.

I respectfully encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 4362.

Thank you for considering this testimony and for your attention to this important legislation.

*Patty Matthews*

## **Testimony of Monica Ihrke for HF 4362**

Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense In America

Minnesota House Higher Education Finance and Policy

Chair Wolgamott, Chair Robbins, and Committee Members,

My name is Monica Ihrke, and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 4362, a bill that would allow public postsecondary institutions to establish policies that restrict the carry or possession of firearms by visitors while on the institution's property.

I am a mom of two young kids, an auntie of future college students, and a college graduate from Minnesota State Mankato. I've also had multiple people in my life die by gun violence, and for the educational future of people I love, I want to see the educational institutions my kids, nieces, and nephew chose to attend to have the agency to ban guns on their premises.

I am testifying today because:

I think colleges should have the agency to bar visitors from carrying if that's what's right for them. K-12 schools already do this. It makes sense to extend that right to community colleges and state universities.

For twelve years of my marriage, my husband was a faculty member in higher education. I'm horrified to know that while students and staff were banned from carrying, a person with a permit could walk on campus and openly carry. Public campuses should have agency over who is allowed to bring guns on to their campuses.

While this bill won't force all campuses to bar visitors from carrying, it would empower each campus to make the decision that's right for them, returning local control to each school.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 4362.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Monica Ihrke

Duluth, MN

## **Testimony of Ellie Gromberg for HF 4362**

Minnesota House Higher Education Finance and Policy

Chair Wolgamott, Chair Robbins, and Committee Members,

My name is Ellie and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 4362, a bill that would allow public postsecondary institutions to establish policies that restrict the carry or possession of firearms by visitors while on the institution's property.

I am a constituent living in Monticello, Minnesota. I work in children's mental health and during my college years, I experienced constant news stories regarding strategies related to gun violence in Las Vegas, Parkland, and countless others. I spent those years considering my safety often and fearing for potential violence that felt like it could strike at any time.

I am testifying today because: I want to institutions to be able to protect their staff and students from violence by keeping postsecondary institutions a safe place for learning.

A recent report "Addressing Gun Violence on College and University Campuses" from the American College Health Association (2023) reports 65% of college students feel that school shootings affect their sense of safety, and 63% favor stricter gun policies on campuses.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 4362.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Ellie Gromberg

## Testimony Opposing H.F. No. 4362

**To:** Rep. Dan Wolgamott (Co-Chair), Rep. Kristin Robbins (Co-Chair), and Members of the Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee

**Re:** Strong Opposition to H.F. No. 4362

**Date:** March 24, 2026

Dear Co-Chairs Wolgamott and Robbins, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michael, and I am writing to urge you to vote **NO** on H.F. 4362.

While the desire to keep our public postsecondary institutions safe is a goal we all share, H.F. 4362 fundamentally relies on the flawed premise that legislating a "gun-free zone" prevents violence. By authorizing public colleges and universities to restrict the lawful carry of firearms by visitors, this bill disarms law-abiding citizens while doing absolutely nothing to deter individuals with malicious intent.

I ask the committee to consider the following realities regarding campus security, constitutional law, and the fundamental right to self-defense:

### 1. The Deadly Illusion of "Gun-Free Zones" and Soft Targets

Criminals, by definition, do not follow the law. A policy ordering a lawful visitor to leave the premises, backed by the threat of a \$25 fine and a petty misdemeanor, will not stop an active threat. Instead, these policies explicitly advertise to predators that a location is entirely undefended.

- We must look at the documented psychology of mass shooters. The writings of the perpetrator of the 2023 Covenant School shooting in Nashville explicitly revealed that they surveyed multiple locations and specifically bypassed a target because it had too much security. They chose the school because they believed they would face the least resistance.
- We must focus on *hardening* our campuses with better infrastructure, security, and empowered citizens, rather than guaranteeing a soft target where no one can fight back.

### 2. The Critical Gap in Law Enforcement Response Time

We owe an immense debt to our law enforcement officers, but the physical reality of an active shooter situation is measured in seconds, not minutes.

- We saw this horrific reality firsthand during the August 2025 shooting at Annunciation Catholic Church and School in Minneapolis. The attacker barricaded doors and fired upon an undefended school Mass.
- Even with police arriving within minutes, those minutes left unarmed teachers and students entirely vulnerable, forcing them to duck down and use their own bodies to shield one another while waiting for help.

- Empowering law-abiding citizens who are vetted and possess carry permits to defend themselves and others is a necessary, life-saving contingency when police cannot instantly be there.

### 3. Constitutional Precedent and the Right to Self-Defense

The restrictions proposed in H.F. 4362 run contrary to the protections guaranteed by the Second Amendment and recent United States Supreme Court rulings.

- **New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen (2022):** The Supreme Court made it clear that the right to bear arms in public for self-defense is a fundamental right. The Court firmly rejected the arbitrary expansion of "sensitive places" where firearms can be banned. Expanding gun-free zones to all visitors across sprawling, open public university campuses easily crosses the line into constitutional infringement.
- **District of Columbia v. Heller (2008):** The Court affirmed that the core component of the Second Amendment is the individual right to self-defense. In Heller, the Court explicitly struck down requirements that firearms be kept unloaded and disassembled or bound by a trigger lock, ruling that such mandates make it impossible for citizens to use them for the core lawful purpose of self-defense. By forcing a lawful visitor to either leave their firearm at home, lock it securely in a vehicle, or face being ordered off the premises, H.F. 4362 applies this unconstitutional logic to public spaces. It effectively strips citizens of their fundamental right to self-defense the moment they step onto a public college campus.

### Conclusion

H.F. 4362 targets the wrong demographic. It regulates and penalizes the lawful visitor, while providing a consequence-free environment for the violent criminal. True public safety comes from empowering law-abiding citizens, hardening our schools against threats, and respecting constitutional rights. I urge you to vote **NO** on H.F. 4362.

Thank you for your time and service to Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Michael Babcock  
Saint Paul, MN 55106

## **Testimony of Leah Kondes for HF 4362**

Minnesota House Higher Education Finance and Policy

Chair Wolgamott, Chair Robbins, and Committee Members,

My name is Leah Kondes, and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 4362, a bill that would allow public post-secondary institutions to establish policies that restrict the carry or possession of firearms by visitors while on the institution's property.

I am the mother of three daughters. One is currently a grad student at University of Minnesota.

I am testifying today because every time I received a notification from Everbridge, which provides emergency communications from the U, I worry it will be regarding a shooting.

My experience leads me to emphasize the consistency of this bill with other current statutes today. Gun owners with a permit to carry are already barred from carrying on K-12 school grounds, both public and private -- it makes sense to extend this to community colleges and state universities, which have been the sites of some of the most notorious shootings in our country.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 4362.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

TESTIMONY OF JANICE McCLEMENT for HF4362

VOLUNTEER FOR MOMS DEMAND ACTION

Chair Wolgamott, Chair Robbins and Committee Members-

My name is Jan McClement and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 4362, a bill that would allow public postsecondary institutions to establish policies that restrict the carry or possession of firearms by visitors while on the institution's property.

I have been a proud Minnesotan for nearly 20 years. I am the mother of 4 and grandmother of 3 and am quite concerned about the level gun violence in our state and country and the lack of action taken to reduce, let alone prevent it. While we have made some progress with sensible gun legislation in this state, there is more we need to do.

This bill would not force all campuses to bar visitors from carrying. It would empower each campus to make the decision that's right for them, returning local control to each school.

Gun owners with a permit to carry are already barred from carrying on K-12 school grounds, both public and private -- it makes sense to extend this to community colleges and state universities, which have been the sites of some of the most notorious shootings in our country.

Also, in our post-Annunciation shooting world, the sight of a firearm on campus would only inflame already high anxiety around gunfire on school grounds in Minnesota.

I encourage members of this committee to vote YES on HF4362.

Thank you for considering both my testimony and this important bill.

Janice McClement

Testimony of Kevin Erickson for HF 4362

Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense In America

Minnesota House Higher Education Finance and Policy

Chair Wolgamott, Chair Robbins, and Committee Members,

My name is Kevin Erickson, and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 4362, a bill that would allow public postsecondary institutions to establish policies that restrict the carry or possession of firearms by visitors while on the institution's property.

I am a parent in Duluth, MN. I have children in public schools and one attending a university. Gun violence at schools is my greatest fear for my children, and it's entirely preventable.

I am testifying today because people carrying guns in public places don't make us safer. In fact, when I see someone armed in public, it makes me feel less safe. We shouldn't have to worry about the safety of our children at schools and universities.

Post-Annunciation, the sight of a firearm on campus would only inflame already high anxiety around gunfire on school grounds in Minnesota. Gun owners with a permit to carry are already barred from carrying on K-12 school grounds, both public and private -- it makes sense to extend this to community colleges and state universities, which have been the sites of some of the most notorious shootings in our country.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 4362.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Kevin Erickson

Duluth, MN



Minnesota House Higher Education Finance & Policy Committee  
March 23, 2026

**Re: Opposition to HF 4362 – Ban on Lawful Carry at Colleges and Universities**

Co-Chair Robbins, Co-Chair Wolgamott, and Members

On behalf of the Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus, the trusted voice of Minnesota's gun owners working to defend and restore the right to keep and bear arms, **we respectfully urge you to vote NO on HF 4362.**

This bill expands firearm restrictions across large areas of public property by treating university-controlled land as a broad exclusion zone for the exercise of Second Amendment rights. That approach is both constitutionally suspect and fundamentally disconnected from how these spaces are actually used.

**This Restriction Falls on Law-Abiding Permit Holders**

The only individuals affected by this bill are those who follow the law.

Minnesota permit to carry holders are:

- Background checked
- Trained in the safe use of firearms
- Statistically, among the most law-abiding segments of the population

These individuals have already been vetted by the state and entrusted to carry for lawful self-defense.

HF 4362 does not target criminals. It disarms the people who comply with the law while doing nothing to deter those who do not.

**Public Safety Is Not Advanced by Expanding Prohibited Zones**

Expanding prohibited areas does not stop criminal behavior.

Individuals who are intent on committing crimes do not consult maps of restricted zones before acting.

These laws restrict law-abiding individuals' ability to defend themselves in large public areas.



Universities are not isolated compounds. They are integrated into the surrounding community. Students, employees, and visitors move through these spaces at all hours, often in areas that are open, unmonitored, and not secured.

Denying lawful self-defense in these environments does not enhance safety. It creates vulnerability.

### **University Property Is Not a “Sensitive Place”**

HF 4362 treats vast areas of public land as if they are uniquely sensitive locations where constitutional rights can be broadly restricted.

They are not.

Public universities in Minnesota occupy enormous geographic footprints that include sidewalks, public roads, green space, parking areas, and other open-access property used daily by thousands of Minnesotans who are not students, faculty, or staff. These are not controlled environments like courthouses or secure government buildings.

They are open, public spaces.

Under the Supreme Court’s framework, restrictions on the right to carry firearms must be consistent with the Nation’s historical tradition of firearm regulation. There is no historical tradition of designating large, open public areas like university campuses as categorical gun-free zones.

Expanding the definition of “sensitive places” to include entire campuses risks turning vast portions of public land into rights-free zones.

### **The Boundaries Are Unclear and Unknowable**

HF 4362 creates a serious due process problem by applying criminal penalties in areas where the boundaries are not clearly defined or readily understood by the public.

University property is not always clearly marked. It often blends seamlessly into surrounding city streets, sidewalks, and adjacent private property.

A lawful permit holder could unknowingly cross onto university-controlled land and face criminal liability without any clear notice.

That is not fair, and it is not workable.



**Conclusion**

HF 4362 expands firearm restrictions across vast, undefined areas of public land, relies on an unsupported expansion of “sensitive places,” and imposes criminal penalties on law-abiding Minnesotans who have already been vetted and trained.

It is overbroad, impractical, and constitutionally suspect.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to vote **NO** on HF 4362.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bryan Strawser  
Chair

Anna Leamy  
Director, Government Relations & Advocacy

## Testimony of Maria Aquino- Duran for HF 4362

Minnesota House Higher Education Finance and Policy

Chair Wolgamott, Chair Robbins, and Committee Members,

My name is Maria Aquino-Duran, and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 4362, a bill that would allow public postsecondary institutions to establish policies that restrict the carry or possession of firearms by visitors while on the institution's property.

I am an attorney and have had the pleasure of serving as an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota Law School. I am also a former prosecutor (in New York City, where I am originally from) and the parent of a teenager.

I am testifying today for many reasons. Firstly, as a former prosecutor in the largest city in our country, I am very familiar with gun violence and the harm it inflicts on our communities. As a parent, I am well aware that gun violence is now the leading cause of death in children – more so than cancer or car accidents. As my daughter heads off to college next year, I have a growing concern for her safety while on her college campus.

I recently learned that visitors to the U of M campus with a permit to carry are allowed to openly carry their weapons. MN Statute 624.714, provides that private establishments in Minnesota can ban guns inside, whether or not patrons have a permit to carry, but unfortunately public campuses like ours cannot.

Gun owners with a permit to carry are already barred from carrying on K-12 school grounds, both public and private -- it makes sense to extend this to community colleges and state universities, which have been the sites of some of the most notorious shootings in our country. The bill would not force all campuses to bar visitors from carrying. It would empower each campus to make the decision that's right for them, returning local control to each school.

My experiences lead me to emphasize how important it is that we enact whatever legislation we can to make our communities safer. Not just for our children, but for everyone in the community. As an adjunct professor working at the U of M, I want to go to work knowing that my students, colleagues and I will be safe from gun violence while at work/school.

I strongly encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 4362.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Sincerely,  
Maria Aquino-Duran

## **Testimony of Kathleen Anderson for HF 4362**

Long-time gun violence prevention organizer, educator and advocate

Minnesota House Higher Education Finance and Policy

Chair Wolgamott, Chair Robbins, and Committee Members,

My name is Kathleen Anderson and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 4362, a bill that would allow public postsecondary institutions to establish policies that restrict the carry or possession of firearms by visitors while on the institution's property.

I am a social worker and long-time volunteer in gun violence prevention in our state. Through my years of community outreach and conversations, I have heard heartbreaking stories of the escalating and persistent fear of gun violence in our communities, including places of learning.

I am testifying today because educators, administrators, and students have had enough. For our youth and the adults entrusted with their education, the sight of a gun isn't reassuring - it's a reminder that gun violence can occur at any time. Just two weeks ago, I organized a rally on the steps of the Capitol with students, educators, union members and national partners to share about the persistent threat of gun violence on school campuses. Their diverse backgrounds were united in saying that guns have no place in institutions of learning. If school administration deems it safer to ban firearms on campus, they should be allowed to do so. Responsible gun owners are in the habit of following firearm bans on all manner of property; postsecondary campuses are not unduly onerous.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 4362.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Kathleen Anderson (64A)

Saint Paul, MN

Testimony of Kelly Erickson for HF 4362

Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense In America

Minnesota House Higher Education Finance and Policy

Chair Wolgamott, Chair Robbins, and Committee Members,

My name is Kelly Erickson, and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 4362, a bill that would allow public postsecondary institutions to establish policies that restrict the carry or possession of firearms by visitors while on the institution's property.

I am a parent in Duluth, MN. I have children in public schools and one attending a university. Gun violence at schools is my greatest fear for my children, and it's entirely preventable.

I am testifying today because people carrying guns in public places don't make us safer. In fact, when I see someone armed in public, it makes me feel less safe. We shouldn't have to worry about the safety of our children at schools and universities.

Post-Annunciation, the sight of a firearm on campus would only inflame already high anxiety around gunfire on school grounds in Minnesota. Gun owners with a permit to carry are already barred from carrying on K-12 school grounds, both public and private -- it makes sense to extend this to community colleges and state universities, which have been the sites of some of the most notorious shootings in our country.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 4362.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Kelly Erickson  
Duluth, Minnesota

## Testimony of Libby Holden for HF 4362

Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense In America

Minnesota House Higher Education Finance and Policy

Chair Wolgamott, Chair Robbins, and Committee Members,

My name is Libby Holden, and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 4362, a bill that would allow public postsecondary institutions to establish policies that restrict the carry or possession of firearms by visitors while on the institution's property.

I am a mom of two small kids, and I hope that they will - like I did - take advantage of the PSEO program to stay challenged as a high schooler and help ease their transition to full-time college. When I did PSEO at the U of M - Twin Cities in 2000, gun violence on school campuses was not nearly as prevalent as it is today. In 2026, school shootings can happen at any school; I know this firsthand because it happened in my neighborhood last summer. We are still reeling from it.

I am testifying today because Minnesota students - our children - are traumatized by gun violence. Its threat is ever-present on school campuses, grocery stores, movie theaters, playgrounds, and all the other places children go. This trauma is not conducive to a productive, safe learning environment.

*Firearms should not be allowed on any school property, and that should include our Minnesota public campuses. The presence of and permission to carry lethal firearms runs counter to the fundamental purpose of these schools: to educate and train the next generation of Minnesotans.*

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 4362.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Respectfully,  
Libby Holden

**Testimony of Gretchen Damon for HF 4362**

Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense In America  
Minnesota House Higher Education Finance and Policy

Chair Wolgamott, Chair Robbins, and Committee Members,

My name is Gretchen Damon and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 4362, a bill that would allow public postsecondary institutions to establish policies that restrict the carry or possession of firearms by visitors while on the institution's property.

I am a resident of St. Paul, home to several postsecondary institutions. I want the students who attend these schools to feel safe so they can learn. Everyone deserves to receive an education without the fear of being shot. The teachers and staff at these institutions should be able to do their jobs without the distraction of wondering who might be carrying a firearm. As a graduate of postsecondary programs, I know the value of an education. I want others to have the same opportunities as I did without the possibility of being injured, traumatized, or killed.

I am testifying today because of my work in gun violence prevention, my connection to Annunciation school through a close friend whose granddaughter was in the church on that day, and the number of gun violence survivors I now know. Things need to change.

Passing common sense gun laws assures more lives will be saved. The proof is in the states where these laws are stronger: fewer lives lost. Allowing these institutions to establish policies that restrict visitors from carrying firearms gives the schools the power to create safe campuses.

Gun owners with a permit to carry are already barred from carrying on K-12 school grounds, both public and private—it makes sense to extend this to community colleges and state universities, which have been the sites of some of the most notorious shootings in our country

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 4362. Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Gretchen Damon

St. Paul Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense

