



February 25, 2026

Dear Members of the House Education Policy Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of HF 3401, legislation that would meaningfully restrict when firearms may be brought onto school property. Ensuring safe and supportive learning environments is a top priority for our members, and clear, enforceable boundaries regarding firearms on school grounds are essential components of that work.

Our school leaders are responsible for safeguarding hundreds of thousands of students and staff each day. They develop and implement comprehensive safety plans, invest in prevention and intervention strategies, and work closely with law enforcement and community partners. However, the presence of firearms on or near school property, particularly when not securely stored, undermines these efforts and increases risk.

The data is sobering. Research from Be SMART shows that 75 percent of active shooters are current students or recent graduates. Further, up to 80 percent of shooters under the age of 18 obtained the firearm from their own home, a relative's home, or a friend. These findings underscore a critical reality: youth access to unsecured firearms is a significant factor in school-based gun violence.

The research also highlights the growing problem of firearms stolen from vehicles. At least one unsecured gun is stolen from a car every nine minutes in the United States, and that rate tripled between 2013 and 2023. In 2022, 51 percent of gun thefts involved firearms stolen from vehicles, and thefts from cars are now the largest source of stolen guns. When firearms are brought onto school property and left unsecured in vehicles, the risk is compounded by creating opportunities for theft and increasing the likelihood that those weapons could later be used in acts of violence.

Legislation that clearly restricts when and how firearms may be present on school property, and that reinforces secure storage requirements, is a reasonable and targeted step to reduce preventable risk. Such policies support school leaders in maintaining safe campuses, provide clarity for families and staff, and align with the overarching goal we all share: keeping students, staff and the public safe.

The statute currently provides that a school principal can authorize the possession of a firearm in a school. We believe the time has come to remove this provision from statute.

The provisions providing the placement of the unloaded firearm, in a locked safe, stored in a locked trunk are positive regulations that we believe should be incorporated into Minnesota law.

We appreciate the committee's attention to school safety and stand ready to work with you to strengthen protections for Minnesota students and educators.

Sincerely,

Association of Metropolitan School Districts  
MN Association of School Administrators  
MN Elementary School Principals' Association  
MN Association of Secondary School Principals

February 23,2026

Dear Representative Greene,

We are writing to express our support for the proposed legislation (HF3401/SF3572) that strengthens safe firearm storage requirements on school property and restricts the carrying of firearms within school facilities. The bill clarifies the definition of "school property" to include Minnesota State High School League event venues and sets clear standards for secure firearm storage in vehicles, requiring them to be unloaded, locked, and out of sight when not in active use by authorized personnel. This requirement of state level standards will provide clear, enforceable guidelines across all school districts in Minnesota.

This legislation is important because easy access to firearms leads to significant safety risks. Statistics show that more than 350,000 firearms are stolen annually in the U.S., with gun thefts from vehicles now the largest source of stolen guns. Stolen, unsecured firearms are frequently linked to unintentional injuries, and guns are the leading cause of death in youth ages 1-17. Research also demonstrates that securing firearms—by locking them, keeping them unloaded, and storing ammunition separately—can reduce unintentional firearm injury deaths among children and adolescents.

As members of Moms Demand Action, we know that this legislation will help prevent gun theft and promote safer environments for students, staff, and the community.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Kraemer West Metro Moms Demand Action Lead

Sarah Paisley, Edina Moms Demand Action Co-Lead

Jessica Carlson, Edina Moms Demand Action Co-Lead

HENNEPIN COUNTY  
MINNESOTA

February 24, 2026  
Representative Julie Greene  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
St. Paul, MN  
Re: Support for HF3401

Dear Representative Greene,

We are writing in strong support of HF3401, legislation that thoughtfully strengthens firearm safety standards on school property while maintaining clarity and consistency under Minnesota law.

As County Commissioners serving more than 1.3 million residents, we see firsthand how public safety policies directly impact families, students, and local systems. Schools must remain safe and predictable environments for children, educators, and communities. HF3401 reinforces that priority by establishing clear, uniform storage requirements for firearms when they are lawfully present on school property.

Importantly, the bill:

- Clarifies when firearms are permitted on school property;
- Removes broad discretionary exceptions that could create inconsistent enforcement; and
- Establishes common-sense storage requirements - unloaded, locked in a secure container, and placed in a locked trunk or out of plain sight, when an individual is not actively engaged in an authorized activity.

These standards are reasonable, practical, and aligned with responsible firearm ownership. Secure storage is one of the most effective ways to reduce accidental access, theft, and misuse - particularly in settings where children are present.

Counties are responsible for supporting public safety, emergency response, and the downstream impacts of gun-related incidents. Clear statutory guidance helps ensure consistent enforcement, reduces confusion, and strengthens prevention efforts.

HF3401 strikes an appropriate balance between lawful firearm possession and the shared responsibility to protect students. We respectfully urge the committee's support for this important legislation.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to keeping Minnesota schools safe.

Sincerely,



Heather Edelson  
Hennepin County Board of Commissioners, District 6



Debbie Goettel  
Hennepin County Board of Commissioners, District 5



February 25, 2026

Members of the Minnesota House Education Policy Committee

Minnesota State Capitol, Room G23  
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee

Protect Minnesota writes in strong support of HF 3401, modifying firearm possession on school property and establishing uniform storage requirements.

This legislation makes important improvements to existing law. It clarifies the definition of “school property,” ensuring consistent protections for students wherever school-related programming occurs. The bill also removes broad discretionary permission that previously allowed dangerous weapons to be brought onto school property with written approval, replacing ambiguity with clearer and more protective standards. Additionally, the bill establishes explicit storage requirements for firearms that are lawfully present on school property under limited exceptions, creating a clear, enforceable safety standard. Secure storage is one of the most effective and widely supported strategies for preventing accidental shootings, firearm theft, and unauthorized access by children.

Schools and school-sponsored activities should be spaces dedicated to learning, growth, and community connection. Strengthening storage standards and clarifying where firearms are prohibited helps reduce risk while preserving narrow exceptions for law enforcement, military personnel performing official duties, firearm safety courses, ceremonial color guards, and other limited authorized activities.

This bill strikes an appropriate balance. It maintains constitutional protections and lawful exceptions while reinforcing accountability and safety in environments where children are present. By establishing clear expectations statewide, the Legislature reduces confusion, enhances compliance, and affirms Minnesota’s commitment to protecting students and educators.

Protect Minnesota respectfully urges the committee to advance this legislation.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

In gratitude,

Maggiy Emery, Executive Director  
Protect Minnesota