

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

February 1, 2023

Public Safety Finance and Policy

509 State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairman Moller:

I am writing to you regarding House File 396 (HF 396) and the National Rifle Association's (NRA) position on this piece of legislation. I would like to express our strong opposition to HF 396.

The NRA has a number of concerns regarding some of the policies set forth in the bill. The NRA believes that law abiding gun owners should not have their constitutional right of self-defense impeded by unreasonable storage requirements.

HF 396 seeks to turn law abiding gun owners into felons for not storing a firearm with a locking device, unloaded and separate from the ammunition, when the firearm is not being carried or under the control of the owner. "Under the control" is not defined in the bill

When one needs a firearm for self-defense purposes, it is necessary that the firearm be available. Having to first disengage a locking device and then locate the ammunition in a separate storage area is unreasonable and ineffective.

Finally, the penalty is extreme. A felony conviction has serious consequences when it comes to future gun ownership, voting rights, job accessibility, etc. Not only is the storage requirement onerous and unnecessary, but it will turn those exercising their Second Amendment rights into felons.

For these reasons and several others, the NRA is opposed to the passage of HB 396.

Sincerely,

Brian Gosch

Minnesota State Director