



Thursday, February 29, 2024

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Chair Moller, Chair Pinto and Members of the Committees,

Protect Minnesota, the only independent, state-based organization devoted to gun violence prevention in Minnesota, strongly endorses the vitally important, sensible gun violence prevention bills, HF 4300 and HF 601 that are being considered in committee today.

In 2022, 569 people were killed by firearms in Minnesota. A great many of those people used a gun to die by suicide. Every Minnesotan killed by a firearm has left grieving and traumatized family members and friends. Protect Minnesota urges the Public Safety Committee and Children and Families Committee to vote for today's important bills:

HF 4300 Safe Storage: Minnesota currently only has child access prevention laws which are only applied after tragedies. Requiring secure storage of firearms would help prevent accidents and other fatalities.

Requiring gun owners to safely store their firearm when they are not in physical control of it would help decrease the number of suicides in Minnesota by putting time and space between a person in crisis and their ability to access a firearm.

We thank Rep. Becker Finn for introducing this legislation and urge committee members to vote in favor of it.

HF601 Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms: Researchers estimate that nationwide, over 380,000 guns are stolen from private citizens annually. In fact, in cities that report data to the FBI, gun thefts from cars are the largest source of stolen guns. Requiring reporting of those thefts allows for a better understanding of how many firearms are stolen and can help in investigations of gun trafficking. Studies have shown a reduction of 46% in illegal gun movement when lost or stolen firearm reporting is required.

We thank Rep. Kaohly Her for introducing this legislation and urge committee members to vote in favor of it.

Protect Minnesota is committed to working with members of the Minnesota legislature to enact these essential legislative proposals to reduce the number of Minnesotans who are killed by gun violence every year. Thank you for your time and attention to this vitally important issue.

Sincerely,

Maggiy Emery
Executive Director
Protect Minnesota
3500 Vicksburg Lane North,
Suite 400-128
Minneapolis, MN 55447
(651) 645-3271 info@protectmn.org