

Guercio MN Voting Citizen since 1984

Ref:

My Opposition to Gun Control Bills HF601 & HF4300

Gun Ownership & Gun Use per the 2nd Amendment

2<sup>nd</sup> Amend a God Given Right, per The Constitution, Highest Law of the Land.

April 24 MN House Ways & Means Comm hearing on two gun control bills:

- HF 601 – Mandatory Lost & Stolen Reporting
- HF 4300 – “Safe” Storage

The Armed Citizen is the best deterrent to crime in the USA and World. The Armed Citizen stops over 7000 crimes per day in the USA. This has been confirmed by many studies and true for OVER the past 40 years. I have been supporting the 2nd Amendment since the 1970s & 1980s all over the USA. Some of my documents have had 50 Million views on the videos that were shared via email. National Fox News has covered some of my stories and information.

The home is a special place of safety and RIGHTS for the USA Home Owner. You poorly conceived bills want the Home Owner to lock up the "protection" gun & ammo. Those that have defended a home invasion, car jacking, robbery, rape, would not agree with your effort. Remember the USA Armed citizen stops over 7000 crimes per day.... every day.... and the number is considered very conservative.

I rather you / our peoples congress / work on castle law and stand your ground. States, MANY STATES, that have passed good CC Laws, Castle, and Stand Your Ground, have seen their violent crime drop 60, 70 80% in 2-3 years..... and it has happened state after state, again, again, and again.

Why would MN want to do the laws above that have not worked in other liberal cities that have these laws for many years. These liberal states have homicide and violent crime levels that are 10, 20x the rates in MN.

WE grow tired of the LIBERAL Govt not doing the people's work, not being truthful, and same for the liberal media.

I will also predict the hearings will not be fair to the conservatives in coverage & time?

I hope you prove me wrong, stand up for the Constitution, Our God Given Rights, be even handed with the conservative citizen, and end the heavy handed methods.

God Bless,

Fred Guercio  
Burnsville MN  
National Advocate 45 years



April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

Re: HF4300 (Becker-Finn)

Members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee:

The Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus, the trusted voice of Minnesota's gun owners to defend and restore the right to keep and bear arms, opposes House File HF4300.

House File 4300 creates a new class of criminals out of peaceable people, introduces new felony charges, and opens the door for law enforcement to conduct searches without discernable public safety risks. The bill's impact is likely to be felt most strongly by marginalized communities with already high levels of law enforcement interaction.

- **Criminalizing Peaceable Citizens:** By establishing stringent storage standards and attaching criminal penalties for failure to comply, this bill creates a new group of potential felons. Individuals who have no criminal intent but may neglect specific storage requirements could face severe legal repercussions, including jail time and a prohibition on firearm ownership.
- **Excessive Enforcement and Disproportionate Impact:** This bill grants law enforcement the authority to seek search warrants based on presumed non-compliance with storage standards. The use of these warrants will disproportionately impact marginalized communities already experiencing excessive police contact, creating an additional pathway for intrusive law enforcement actions in homes where there is no discernable public safety threat.
- **Strict Liability for Simple Mistakes:** The proposed bill introduces felony charges for violations, even in cases where the breach was unintentional or caused by a simple oversight. This creates a harsh outcome for otherwise law-abiding gun owners, potentially leading to a loss of rights and serious legal consequences for a single, non-negligent error where no children or prohibited persons are involved.
- **Lack of Flexibility and Consideration of Context:** The bill does not consider individual circumstances, treating a farmer in rural Minnesota the same as a daycare provider in the metro. This one-size-fits-all approach does not account for varying levels of public safety risks and fails to recognize different contexts in which firearms are used and stored in Minnesota.

For these reasons, among many others, we urge you to oppose this bill. Current law already provides strong accountability for those who negligently store their firearms around children. This bill is overbroad and will result in measurable harm to peaceable citizens, especially those in marginalized communities.

On behalf of our members,

Bryan Strawser  
Chair

Robert T. Doer  
Senior Vice President, Government Relations



April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

**Re: House File 601 – Lost and stolen firearms required to be reported promptly to law enforcement**

Members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee:

The Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus, the trusted voice of Minnesota's gun owners to defend and restore the right to keep and bear arms, opposes House File 601.

Our opposition is grounded in the following challenges with the bill:

- 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, for example.
- This bill introduces a "should have known" standard for reporting firearm theft, allowing charges to be brought against individuals based on a subjective view of when they "should have known" about the theft, rather than when they were actually aware.

No person 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.

On behalf of our members,

A blue ink signature of Bryan Strawser, written in a cursive style.

Bryan Strawser  
Chair

A black ink signature of Robert T. Doar, written in a cursive style.

Robert T. Doar  
Senior Vice President, Government Relations

As a resident of Saint Paul, I oppose all further gun laws as I find there are already numerous gun laws on both the state and federal level.

HF601 creates further difficulties for a victim of theft or an accident as they can be penalized for an incident out of their control.

HF4300 stands to create unnecessary restraints for firearm owners who live alone or live with responsible adults.

Additionally, HF4300 has an exception for peace officers “while the officer is engaged in the performance of official duties.” As the largest population of firearm users who open carry and transport firearms as standard equipment, this exception should not be maintained as it should part of their official duties to safely secure their tools. **Either the bill should be equally applied to civilians and law enforcement members at all times, or not applied at all.**



# MINNESOTA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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100 Empire Drive, Suite 222, St. Paul, MN 55103

Phone: 651.451.7216 Fax: 651.451.8087

Email: [info@mnsheriffs.org](mailto:info@mnsheriffs.org)

Representative Liz Olson, Chair  
House Ways and Means Committee

Chair Jamie Becker-Finn, Author HF 4300

April 23, 2024

Dear Members of the House of Representatives,

The Minnesota Sheriffs' Association wishes to formally express our opposition to HF 4300, pertaining to the Negligent Storage of Firearms. While we acknowledge the author's intentions to enhance firearm safety, we believe this proposed legislation is overly broad and could yield unintended repercussions.

We empathize with the author's concerns regarding reducing unauthorized access to firearms and prioritizing the safety of all Minnesota residents, particularly children. However, we contend that the proposed bill lacks the necessary nuance to achieve these goals effectively. Creating a criminal offense for firearm ownership without secure storage, even in situations where children or ineligible persons are not present, fails to strike a balance between safety and individual rights. The potential scenarios where this provision could apply are myriad and may disproportionately affect law-abiding citizens.

Furthermore, the prescribed penalties outlined in the bill appear disproportionate to the alleged offense of negligent storage. Imposing severe penalties on individuals who may have unintentionally violated storage protocols, or who have encountered extenuating circumstances, is unjust and counterproductive to fostering a safer firearm culture.

In summary, the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association stands in opposition to HF 4300 and respectfully urges a reconsideration of its provisions in favor of more balanced and effective approaches to firearm safety.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

James Stuart  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Sheriffs' Association

My name is Brian Murphy, I live in Maple Grove, and I oppose both of these bills. A person should not be criminalized for not reporting their firearm missing within a "reasonable" amount of time. We don't criminalize this with any other victim, why just for lost firearms? Also, reasonable gun owners already report their firearms lost or missing, we don't need a law forcing victims of crimes to do so under criminal penalty.

With the lack of police officers and rising violent crime in my neighborhood I purchased a handgun for the first time. Now you're telling me that I need to have it unloaded with a gun lock or loaded in a gun safe. How am I supposed to protect myself and my family if the worst case situation happens? I don't have the money for private security like many legislators, only I am in charge of protecting my family and this bill makes that impossible for average Minnesotans to do.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



**NRA**

April 23, 2024

Ways and Means  
479 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Olson:

I am writing to you regarding House File 601 (HF 601) and the National Rifle Association's (NRA) position on this piece of legislation. I would like to express our strong opposition to HF 601.

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 be further victimized after they have a firearm stolen from them.

HF 601 seeks to criminalize the failure to report a lost or stolen firearm within 48 hours from the time a person knew or should have known of the loss or theft. The bill does not define what "should have known" means, which will have to be interpreted by the courts, thus leaving a lot of uncertainty in the law.

Nowhere else in the law is there an obligation to report a lost or stolen item. Gun owners are being unfairly singled out and potentially turned into criminals for forgetting to file a report or not doing it within the prescribed timeframe.

Finally, this bill imposes criminal penalties for a violation. This bill will turn a law abiding gun owner, who was victimized by a criminal, into a criminal themselves if they forget to file a report.

For these reasons, and several others, the NRA is opposed to the passage of HB 601.

Sincerely,

Brian Gosch  
Minnesota State Director

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



**NRA**

April 23, 2024

Ways and Means  
479 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Olson:

I am writing to you regarding House File 4300 (HF 4300) and the National Rifle Association's (NRA) position on this piece of legislation. I would like to express our strong opposition to HF 4300.

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 4300 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 in the direct physical control of the owner. "Direct physical 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, graduate programs, 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 4300.

Sincerely,

Brian Gosch  
Minnesota State Director



April 22, 2024

Rep. Liz Olson  
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee  
479 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 4300 – Becker-Finn: Standards for the safe storage of firearms and criminal penalties for failing to meet these standards establishment

Dear Chair Olson and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) represents over 10,000 retailers, distributors and manufacturers in the firearm trades. We have serious concerns about the proposals to criminalize possession of firearms in certain situations as a result of HF4300.

The proposal appears to immediately make industry standard business practices criminal in the State of Minnesota. We are certain that industry standards in the manufacturer, shipping, distribution, and sales of firearms were not the intended focus of the proposals. However, there are no such exemptions provided. As written, the bill is incompatible with US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF) approved lawful commerce of firearms. Manufacturing facilities, shippers, and other points in the chain of commerce will find it virtually impossible to be in compliance with the bill.

We have other broad, lingering concerns that will apply to private gun owners of all types. This bill creates new felonies and aggressively criminalizes individuals unknowingly. It is a bad precedent. We urge you to table this proposal. It is neither right, nor ready for consideration. Please reject it.

Sincerely,



Nephi Cole  
Director Government Relations-State Affairs  
The National Shooting Sports Foundation

TO: Owen.Wirth@house.mn.gov; Leah.Killian.house.mn.gov  
FROM: Marc Olivier  
RE: MN House Ways & Means Committee Hearings on HF 4300 and HF 601

#### WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO BILLS HF 601 AND HF 4300

HF 601 is a bill requiring gun owners to report lost or stolen firearm(s) to law enforcement. The problem is it is not necessary. First, common sense would lead a victim of a lost or stolen firearm to report such immediately. Not doing so leaves one open to legal and civil liabilities according to other existing laws. In other words, HF 601 is redundant and unnecessary. Second, the bill leaves too much to interpretation, leaving victims of theft subject to malicious prosecution. This bill criminalizes victims when no other laws do so. Third, a first offense for violating terms of HF 601 are considered a petty misdemeanor. As a former Hennepin County Attorney has noted on record and video during public testimony on other laws, some county attorneys never even see petty misdemeanor or misdemeanor cases; police don't report them to the county attorney. City attorneys are responsible. The same as with current straw purchase laws. Hennepin County hadn't prosecuted (misdemeanor) straw purchase cases since 2013 through 2019. Lack of prosecution resulted in repeat offenders never being prosecuted.

HF 4300 is a bill requiring gun owners to secure guns not in direct physical control of the person as follows: (1) unloaded and equipped with a locking device; or (2) loaded or unloaded in a locked firearm storage unit. This is a one-size-fits-all gun bill that doesn't take into account individual needs and situations; is vaguely written, leaving people open to malicious prosecution; interferes with immediate self-defense. MN Statute 609.666, which carries criminal penalties, is already in place for children. HF 4300 doesn't distinguish between those who don't have contact with children or prohibited persons and those who do. A gross misdemeanor offense paired with a prohibition on firearms ownership is too high for a strict liability offense as defined in this proposed bill for a first-time offense. Lastly, HF 4300 provides no funding or requirements for an educational campaign around new requirements that would impact peaceable gun owners across the State.

These bills, if passed, would do nothing but harass and intimidate gun owners to no beneficial effect. Vote against these bills.



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](mailto:info@protectmn.org)

**OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF**



**HENNEPIN COUNTY, MN**

April 7, 2024

Senator Heather Gustafson  
3103 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Avenue West  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Jamie Becker-Finn  
559 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55115

Re: Support for Safe Storage Bills SF4312/4300

Senator Gustafson and Representative Becker-Finn:

As the Hennepin County Sheriff, I am responsible for preserving the peace and safety of Minnesota's largest county. Today I am writing to express my support for SF 4312/HF 4300, bills aimed at promoting safe firearm storage practices.

The statistics on firearm-related deaths and injuries, particularly among our youth, are deeply concerning. Firearm-related fatalities are now the leading cause of death among children in the United States. On average, 22 children and young adults die from firearm injuries daily. Data suggests that a large portion of these deaths are preventable through proper firearm storage. Proper storage can help prevent firearm theft, unintentional shootings and self-inflicted injuries.

The human toll of firearm violence is devastating. Neighborhoods where shootings are common face economic disinvestment that can exacerbate racial disparities. These shootings are commonly committed with illegal and stolen firearms. By advocating for safer storage practices, we not only protect our communities but also uphold the values of responsible firearm ownership that the majority of gun owners, including me, support.

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Rockford • Rogers • Saint Anthony • St. Bonifacius • St. Louis Park • Shorewood • Spring Park • Tonka Bay • Wayzata • Woodland**

New gun laws should be a supplement to, not a replacement for, enforcement and investigation of gun crimes. Thank you both for your leadership as chief authors of this important policy. I urge the legislature to consider the overwhelming evidence and support the passage of these bills. Let us prioritize the safety of our communities and help reduce gun violence in Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Dawanna Witt  
Hennepin County Sheriff

To Minn. Senators and reps

While you consider gun safe storage bills, please be aware of a few details:

- A) According to Mn demographics (a state website) our current population is around 5,801,769 people (about twice the population of Arkansas)
- B) Minn has approx 2,299,740 households
- C) Minn. Has approx 42.8 % of households with at least one firearm per Mpls. St Paul magazine Aug16, 2022 (one of the few estimates on this, which I came across)
- D) Basic math then puts it at over 900,000 households with at least one firearm, some will have more
- E) Number of unintentional deaths by firearm, 6, including all ages, per state of Mn. Violent death reports by the Mn. Dept of health year 2021 (latest figures)

The current wording of the bills hf4300/sf43xx language has a little variation but would adversely affect a hunter while afield.

Example:

Under current laws a person may transport a firearm, unloaded, in any case which completely covers the firearm (shotgun or rifle) thus allowing the firearm to be transported in a pick-up topper legally unlocked.

Current law doesn't require locking cases (also, I don't know of any soft side cases which are lockable)

Current laws don't expect that a firearm is in direct possession, or within reach, which would allow for someone to take periodic rest stops while traveling get out and stretch your legs as it's called. Rather than push through non-stop, (safe driving alert)

Also, under the new laws if a hunter was afield and had stopped to hydrate the dogs, or have a coffee, with the firearm nearby, and under supervision, and a sheriff came upon the hunter, he would now be in violation of safe storage.

These may seem insignificant, but, if you were the hunter who got arrested by a conservation officer or the sheriff, you wouldn't be finding it humorous.

SO, ON BEHALF OF THE NEARLY ONE MILLION HUNTERS RESIDING IN MINNESOTA AND COUNTLESS NON-RESIDENTS ALSO, ALL OF WHOM, WHO WISH TO STAY LAW ABIDING, DON'T BECOME OVER ZELOUS BECAUSE OF 6 (SIX) UNFORTUNATE INCIDENTS.

I should also mention that under the proposed law ranchers and farmers would be adversely affected trying to protect livestock, pets, and even family in areas where wolves, bears, and coyote's roam. Campers in BWCA and superior national forest may also be affected for the same reasons.

This is because of 6 unfortunate deaths per year, and even if this bill passed, improvement may reduce the unintentional deaths by only 1 (one) which would be about a 15% improvement.

Please, with all the wisdom which must be available to our legislators, better wording can / must be used, thereby maintaining the long and storied hunting traditions which this great state is famous for.

Thank you, Respectfully Richard Olson Apple Valley Mn 55124,



# Minnesota Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MINNESOTA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



**Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics**

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February 29, 2024

Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota State Capitol Building  
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard.  
St Paul, MN 55155

Dear Members,

On behalf of the nearly 1,000 members of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MNAAP), I am writing in support of HF 4300.

Firearm violence is an epidemic, and it is particularly acute among children, adolescents, and young adults. Firearm violence was the leading cause of death among children in recent years, surpassing auto accidents in 2020. On average, 22 children and young adults die each day as a result of firearm injuries. Many of these are accidental death or injury due to unsecure firearms.

HF 4300 aims to reduce the risk of accidental firearm deaths and injuries among children through requiring that firearms be secured with a locking device, unloaded, and kept separately from ammunition. These measures will go far in preventing unauthorized access to children and prevent tragedies caused by accidental discharges.

Adolescents are at an increased risk of suicide, and firearms are a leading cause of death among this age group. Research in the Journal of Pediatrics found that safe storage laws can reduce the risk of suicide among adolescents by making it more difficult for young people to access firearms. In addition to protecting children and teens, safe storage laws can also help to reduce theft and the illegal use of firearms.

MNAAP urges members to support HF 4300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eileen Crespo". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light green rectangular background.

Eileen Crespo, MD, FAAP  
President, Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Bryan Strawser  
PO Box 131416  
Roseville, Minnesota

House Ways & Means Committee  
April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

House Ways & Means Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to HF601 and HF4300 for the reasons cited below.

**HF601**

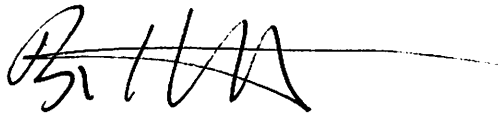
- This bill criminalizes the victim of a crime for not reporting the theft or loss of a firearm to law enforcement within a defined period of time.
- In no other statutory scheme do we turn a victim into a criminal for not reporting that a crime has occurred.

**HF 4300**

- This bill impacts the core right of self-defense within the Second Amendment and the core holding in the *Heller* case.
- Minnesota's existing statutes related to the negligent storage of a firearm take a stronger approach by prohibiting negligent storage of a loaded firearm.
- This bill provides no funding or requirements for an educational campaign around new requirements that would impact gun owners.
- This bill provides no funding to the Minnesota Attorney General's office to defend the statute against the inevitable court challenge.

I **oppose** these bills and ask that you do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryan Strawser', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bryan Strawser  
Roseville, Minnesota



The Kid Experts™

February 29, 2024  
House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Chair Moller and Committee Members,

On behalf of Children's Minnesota, I am writing in support of HF4300 and HF601, policies that would make important strides in protecting Minnesota children from gun violence.

Gun violence remains the country's leading cause of death for children and teenagers. We can improve safety in our communities by requiring unattended firearms to be stored safely and requiring gun owners to more immediately report lost or stolen firearms.

I encourage you to view the enclosed op-ed from the Star Tribune written by Dr. Marc Gorelick, President and Chief Executive Officer at Children's Minnesota which outlines three steps the 2024 Legislature can take to make Minnesota safer for kids.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Jansen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amanda Jansen, MPP  
Director of Public Policy  
Children's Minnesota

Enclosure: Star Tribune Op-ed



# We have 90 days to make Minnesota safer for kids

Three steps the 2024 Legislature can take regarding guns.

By Marc Gorelick | FEBRUARY 18, 2024 — 6:00PM

We are not protecting our children. Yes, we buckle them into car seats. We strap seat belts across them and require them to wear bike helmets. We teach them to safely cross the street, take them to the doctor for checkups and get them vaccinated against disease.

We do all that, and then we send them into a society where they could get shot anywhere, at any time. A July 4th parade. Their own classroom. A trampoline at a birthday party. A Super Bowl celebration.

As pediatricians, we work day in and day out to prevent illness in our community's children and keep them healthy. Yet, guns are the No. 1 killer of kids in our country, and it is absolutely preventable. When it comes to the largest threat to children's health, we allow partisanship to defeat safety. The cost is our kids' lives.

We are not protecting our children.

We as Minnesotans have 90 days to make our state safer for our kids. That's about how long this year's legislative session, now underway, will last. It's the amount of time we have to demand lawmakers pass effective gun safety measures.

We need lawmakers to:

1. Require safe gun storage. We know that unsecured guns pose clear risks, especially to children. Safe storage has been shown to significantly decrease firearm injuries among kids.
2. Require gun owners to more immediately report lost or stolen firearms. Stolen guns pose a risk to our communities as they enter the illegal gun market and fuel more violence.
3. Allow Medicaid to pay for hospital-based violence intervention programs like [Next Step](#) that interrupt the cycle of violence and help victims of gun violence heal.

Thankfully, the 11 children shot in Kansas City on Wednesday will likely survive. But they are also likely to bear the physical and emotional trauma of sudden, inexplicable violence for the rest of their lives.

This is not normal. Unlike kids today, most parents didn't grow up with the fear of being gunned down in a public place, having to perform active shooter drills at school. We cannot allow this to be our normal any longer.

Our children cannot protect themselves. That is our job. Our most important job. In the next 90 days, in partnership with our Minnesota legislators, let's do that job to the very best of our ability.

*Dr. Marc Gorelick is president and CEO of Children's Minnesota.*

**From:** RS Beta <rs2beta@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 10:01 PM  
**To:** Owen Wirth <owen.wirth@house.mn.gov>; Leah Killian <Leah.Killian@house.mn.gov>  
**Subject:** HF 4300 hearing

Dear Rep.Wirth & Rep. Killian,

I write to express my concern that your safe storage bill, in my reading, flies directly in the

face of the U.S. Supreme Court Heller decision from 2008. (See below.)

I have seen/heard no direct talk to \_\_\_justify\_\_\_ why the Mn House is proceeding in this

COLLISION manner. I believe we can all read English; see below. There are 1001 different

situations in individual people's home security & personal circumstances (e.g., no children

ever present there). All citizens have a constitutional right to feel safe and secure in their

own homes. Not be threatened with one-size-fits-all legalities.

Please understand I am a firm believer in **\*\*responsible\*\*** gun ownership & use. BUT: I am not

in favor of MN making laws which are ill-justified legally and which seem to be made simply to

result in test court cases.

Thank you,

Dennis Hejhal, Ph.D.

(Minneapolis, Mn. 55403)

++++  
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**(from the U.S. Supreme Court)**

**District of Columbia v. Heller, 554 U.S.  
570 (2008)**

**Syllabus**

**SYLLABUS  
OCTOBER TERM, 2007  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA V. HELLER**

**SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES**

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA et al. v. HELLER

certiorari to the united states court of appeals for the district of columbia circuit

No. 07–290. Argued March 18, 2008—Decided June 26, 2008

*Held:*

1. The Second Amendment protects an individual right ....
2. Like most rights, the Second Amendment ....

THIS ---> 3. The handgun ban ###and the trigger-lock requirement (as applied to self-defense) violate the Second Amendment.###

The District's total ban on handgun possession in the home amounts to a prohibition on an entire class of "arms" that Americans overwhelmingly choose for the lawful purpose of self-defense. Under any of the standards of scrutiny the Court has applied to enumerated constitutional rights, this prohibition—in the place where the importance of the lawful defense of self, family, and property is most acute—would fail constitutional muster.

### Similarly, the requirement that any lawful firearm in the home be disassembled or bound by a trigger lock makes it impossible for citizens to use arms for the core lawful purpose of self-defense and is hence unconstitutional.###

Because Heller conceded at oral argument that the D. C. licensing law is permissible if it is not enforced arbitrarily and capriciously, the Court assumes that a license will satisfy his prayer for relief and does not address the licensing requirement. Assuming he is not disqualified from exercising Second Amendment rights, the District must permit Heller to register his handgun and must issue him a license to carry it in the home. Pp. 56–64.

478 F. 3d 370, affirmed.

Scalia, J., delivered the opinion of the Court, in which Roberts, C. J., and Kennedy, Thomas, and Alito, JJ., joined. Stevens, J., filed a dissenting opinion, in which Souter, Ginsburg, and Breyer, JJ., joined. Breyer, J., filed a dissenting opinion, in which Stevens, Souter, and Ginsburg, JJ., joined.



Dear Representatives...

I want to go on record as opposing both of these proposed bills. Responsible gun owners are already doing lock ups and locking up and securing their firearms when not in use. Gang bangers and car jackers do not secure their illegal weapons and never will.

I'm guessing that these laws are very difficult if not impossible to enforce. How do you plan to enforce these laws? I have had experience with both of these issues as I had a house fire a few years back and did report a missing gun (temporarily) to the Eden Prairie police department. Kudos to the Eden Prairie Police department....they got a registry of employees of the fire restoration company who had come through my house (and there were quite a few of them) and ran them all through a background check. So this is an example of a responsible gun owner reporting something missing to the police.

So my advice would be for you to focus on issues that will work towards reducing crime, and stay out of our bedrooms, closets, and gun storage areas. Have the courage to start focusing on criminal activity and leave responsible gun owners alone.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Jon Nelson



Thursday, February 29th

Chair Kelly Moller  
Chair Dave Pinto  
Minnesota House of Representatives

Chair Moller, Chair Pinto and esteemed members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy and House Children and Families Committees,

We write today in support of HF4300, Representative Becker-Finn's bill to codify standards for the safe storage of firearms in Minnesota. Comprehensive child access prevention and safe storage laws are an incredibly effective tool to curb gun deaths and injuries among children and teens.

Unsecured guns pose clear safety risks, particularly to children. When guns are not stored safely or securely and they are accessible to unsupervised minors, the risk of death or injury significantly increases. Hundreds of thousands of firearms are also stolen from homes, vehicles, and individuals each year, funneling guns into an underground market where many of them are sold to people who use them to commit violent crimes.

Household guns, often the most easily accessible firearms for youth, are a major source of weapons used in school shootings, youth suicides, and unintentional shooting deaths among children.

We thank Representative Becker-Finn for her work on this important issue, and we encourage members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy and the House Children and Families Committee to support this bill.

The research is clear: gun laws work. The nation's courts agree: gun laws are fully compatible with the Second Amendment. And the American people have spoken: our weak gun safety laws are killing nearly 40,000 Americans every year. Something must change.