



February 28th, 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.
- It contains a highly subjective standard of “should have known” that leaves too much space for interpretation that could lead to criminal charges for peaceable gun owners in Minnesota.

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



February 28th, 2024

Re: House File 4300 – Standards for safe storage of firearms and criminal penalties established for failing to meet those standards.

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 4300.

Our opposition is grounded in the following challenges with the bill that impact the core right of self-defense within the Second Amendment and create specific additional safety challenges for gun owners:

- Current law as defined in MN 609.666 prohibits the negligent storage of a loaded firearm in a location where a child is likely to gain access. We believe this is the right approach rather than mandating a specific method of storage that impedes the right to possess a firearm for the purpose of self-defense.
- The guarantee of criminal immunity is more than enough incentive to gain compliance to these requirements.
- This bill treats a farmer in Aitkin who keeps a firearm ready to fend off predators from his livestock the same as a day-care operator in Apple Valley. This one size fits all solution is impractical.
- This bill does not differentiate between someone who has no contact with children and prohibited persons – and others who do.
- We believe that 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. A well-intentioned and safe hunter could go to jail for a year and become a prohibited person for a simple mistake.
- This bill provides no funding or requirements for an educational campaign around new requirements that would impact peaceable gun owners across the state.



- This bill does not address the issue of large collectors who have walk-in secure storage rooms with vault doors or other secure access.

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

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

February 27, 2024

Public Safety Finance and Policy

509 State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Moller:

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

February 27, 2024

Public Safety Finance and Policy

509 State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Moller:

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



MINNESOTA GUN RIGHTS

7809 SOUTHTOWN CENTER #173,
BLOOMINGTON, MN 55431

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Madame Chairwoman and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing today, as I wrote last year, to tell you that the people of Minnesota are sick and tired of having their rights and freedoms stomped on by petty tyrants like you.

We're sick and tired of inner-city criminals being let off the hook by Democrat prosecutors who have no desire at all to stop crime but rather to tread on every-day gun owners.

But we will NOT be tread upon and there will be NO COMPROMISE!

If you pass Mandated Firearms Lockups or H.F. 601, Minnesota Gun Rights will viciously expose EVERY politician in the weakest district in Minnesota in the 2024 elections and every election beyond. And we are well situated for it!

More than that, we will encourage peaceful, MASS non-compliance of this tyrannical and unconstitutional law if it should become law.

You can't have our guns. And you can't tell us where to store them.

And we will not comply because we know that what's happening here is the attempted disarmament of YOUR political opposition, not the saving of lives.

The choice comes down to the most vulnerable members of your caucus.

You made a mistake passing gun control last year. Don't make the same mistake this year.

Good luck in November.

For Freedom,

Ben Dorr, Director
Minnesota Gun Rights

**Written Testimony
for
Minnesota House Public Safety Committee**

**by
Justin Dragosani-Brantingham, MA, CI, President and Chief Instructor
RAM Defense LLC
Warroad, MN**

HF XXXX - Becker-Finn – *The so-called "Safe Storage" Act, which keeps a firearm from being accessible if needed to protect oneself AND allows citizens to be criminally charged for not complying*

HF 601 - Her– *Victims of a gun theft can be criminally charged if not reported within 48 hours*

Committee Administrator Ellen McDaniel, ellen.mcdaniel@house.mn.gov, I respectfully submit the following:

- **Regardless of motive or reasoning, gun control in any form is wicked.**
- **Simply put, this gun control bill violates liberty and law in pursuit of security.**
 - **Ben Franklin as part of the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1755, wrote to the Governor of Pennsylvania, "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."**
- **Liberty is without question the most treasured right and value of human existence, and it is formally enshrined, codified and protected in American and Minnesota law.**
 - **As such, it is deemed inviolate.**
- **Is tyranny—be it overt or covert—to be accepted and even promoted in American and Minnesota law?**
 - **We collectively find the idea repugnant.**
- **Regardless of motive or reasoning, contravening in matters of liberty and by extension personal responsibility in a free republic is wicked and a most serious attack on good citizens.**
 - **As the entirety of human history has proven time and again, when the people are oppressed enough, they will defend themselves, even through a justified and virtuous rebellion.**
 - **Pray God we Minnesotans can avert that calamity!**
- **Slaves are not allowed to be freely armed, and we Minnesotans are by no means slaves!**
- **Thomas Jefferson wrote James Madison in 1787 *Malo periculosam, libertatem quam quietam servitutem* "I prefer the tumult of liberty to the quiet of servitude". He also said in the same letter that "governments of force" are a "government of wolves over sheep."**

As such, these manifestations of the malignant cancer of authoritarianism should be officially halted with the utmost urgency!

I oppose HF 4300 – “Safe” Storage Bill

I am concerned that the storage requirement will make a defensive weapon unavailable for use in the event of a home invasion. My firearms are already secure from unauthorized access and this one size fits all definition does nothing for me other than prevent accessing a defensive firearm in the event of a home invasion.

Adam Breitreutz
1397 Rambler Rd
Roseville MN 55113

HF 601 Reporting stolen firearms

I oppose this bill for the following reasons:

It puts the victim of a theft as an accessory to a crime committed by the thief. The victim had no contact with the thief yet is somehow complicit with a crime committed by an unknown thief.

What happens when a firearm is simply misplaced and the person is looking for it? How soon must a misplaced or lost firearm be reported as stolen?

How does a person know for sure when the legal definition of “stolen” is complete?

If the firearm is found after being lost did a person file a false report?

If someone steals my car and commits a crime of a fatal hit-and-run and I didn't report the stolen car because I assumed a relative or friend borrowed it, am I now an accessory for the crime?

Thank you,

Allen Wold

5950 720th Ave

Wheaton, MN 56296 320-563-8743

609.666 NEGLIGENT STORAGE OF FIREARMS

I oppose this legislation for the following reasons:

It violates the Second Amendment of a restriction of the right to bear arms. This is particularly bad because my home is my castle and having a prompt and ready means of self-defense against possible armed intruders is a right of self-defense.

It makes me guilty of an act that a thief committed. I did not know the thief and did not aid or help the thief in the commission of a crime.

I live on a farm and quite often predators come on my farm site to kill my chickens, attack my dog, and attack the cats. It takes too long to unlock my firearm and ammunition to stop such predators. My response time is measured in one or two minutes. This law gives predators open and continued access to my farm.

If my car is stolen and used in a crime, am I considered a co-conspirator in the crime? This bill is the same idea.

It places the lawful abiding citizen as guilty of a crime by the reasoning of guilty by association for a crime someone else committed.

The one who uses any firearm in a crime should be prosecuted not the lawful citizen simply for owning a firearm.

Thank you,

Allen Wold

5950 720th Ave

Wheaton, MN 56296

HF 601 Mandatory Lost and Stolen Reporting

To: Rep, Kaohly Vang Her

CC: ellen.mcdaniel@house.mn.gov, contact@gunowners.mn

From: Andrew Nieuwsma, Burnsville

Dear Members of the House,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed legislation, HF 601, which mandates the reporting of lost and stolen firearms within a specified timeframe. While I fully recognize and support the need for measures that enhance public safety and responsible firearm ownership, I believe that this bill, as it is currently proposed, may not effectively achieve these objectives and could inadvertently penalize law-abiding citizens who are victims of crime themselves.

Constitutional Concerns:

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution protects the right of the people to keep and bear arms. This bill's imposition of penalties on individuals who fail to report lost or stolen firearms within a narrow window could be viewed as an undue burden on this constitutional right. In *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008), the Supreme Court affirmed the importance of not infringing on the lawful exercise of Second Amendment rights. While regulation is permissible, it must not encroach upon the fundamental rights of citizens in a manner that is excessive or unjust.

Victim Penalization:

The bill's approach to penalizing individuals who have been victimized by theft or loss of their property raises significant ethical concerns. Victims of crimes should be encouraged and supported in coming forward, not threatened with penalties if they fail to navigate the complexities of legal reporting within a strict timeframe. This could lead to underreporting and a reluctance to engage with law enforcement, counteracting the bill's intended purpose of enhancing public safety.

Practical Implications:

The requirement to report within 48 hours, while intended to ensure timely information, may not account for the realities faced by victims of theft or loss. Individuals may not immediately realize their firearm is missing, or they may be dealing with circumstances that prevent prompt reporting, such as personal trauma, travel, or hospitalization. The bill's penalties for late reporting seem to lack consideration for such practicalities, which could lead to unjust outcomes.

Alternative Solutions:

Instead of imposing penalties on victims, I advocate for alternative approaches

that focus on education, support, and incentives for voluntary reporting. Programs that emphasize the importance of secure storage, along with resources for individuals who have experienced loss or theft, could foster a more cooperative relationship between firearm owners and law enforcement. Additionally, offering immunity or protection from prosecution for those who report lost or stolen firearms, as the bill partly does, is a positive step, but it should be coupled with broader measures that do not penalize victims.

In conclusion, HF 601 will have unintended negative consequences. I respectfully urge you to consider these points and the potential impact on law-abiding citizens. Public safety is of paramount importance, but legislation should be carefully crafted to support, not penalize, the very individuals we aim to protect.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter. I am available for further discussion or to provide additional information as needed.

Sincerely,

Mr. Andrew Nieuwsma
Burnsville, MN

HF 4300 Safe Storage Bill

To: Rep, Jamie Becker-Finn

CC: ellen.mcdaniel@house.mn.gov, contact@gunowners.mn

From: Andrew Nieuwsma, Burnsville

Dear Members of the House,

I write today in opposition of HF 4300. As a responsible firearms owner, I have taken all due diligence to ensure that no firearm falls into the hands of any unauthorized user. This is in keeping with my ethical and moral responsibility, as well as the current MN Statute 609.666 Sub. 2, "A person is guilty of a gross misdemeanor who negligently stores or leaves a loaded firearm in a location where the person knows, or reasonably should know, that a child is likely to gain access, unless reasonable action is taken to secure the firearm against access by the child."

However, I believe that HF 4300 goes too far and unnecessarily burdens law-abiding gun owners. The current law appropriately recognizes that responsible firearm storage practices can vary depending on individual circumstances. For example, a single woman living alone should not be required to use additional locked storage devices within her own dwelling, which is already legally protected and can be secured against unauthorized access.

Growing up in a rural community myself, I understand the importance of firearm education and safety from a young age. As a youth, some of my fondest memories are being 16, going to my friends farm, and with permission he and I (both minors, and without supervision of an adult), using rifles and shotguns to target shoot. Beyond being a legally protected and enumerated right in our constitution, firearms are an important fixture in the landscape of America.

Furthermore, I believe that responsible youths, particularly those aged 14 and older who have completed gun safety courses, should be granted the legal right to access firearms under parental supervision and consent. This structured approach ensures that young individuals are educated about firearm safety and responsible usage, with both the youths and their guardians being held accountable for their actions.

In conclusion, I urge you not to pass HF 4300. Instead, let us focus on promoting responsible firearm ownership through education, community engagement, and sensible legislation that respects the rights of law-abiding citizens while prioritizing public safety.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important matter.

Best regards,
Mr. Andrew Nieuwsma
Burnsville, MN

Gentlemen,

This is my personal testimony opposing the two bills currently being presented, HF 601 and HF 4300.

HF 601 - Mandatory Lost and Stolen Reporting

I oppose this bill.

I should not be able to be charged with a crime when I had no criminal intent, did not act with willful recklessness, and could not have foreseen the criminal consequences of their victimization. We don't do this with any other crimes being committed.

The responsibility of a crime is the perpetrator and making that individual completely responsible for their choices of action. Do not try to put the blame on law abiding citizens by trying to find a scape goat for someone's heinous actions.

HF 4300 - "Safe" Storage Bill

I oppose this bill.

This bill eliminates the ability to quickly access my firearm in an emergency situation therefore making me defenseless. This violates my core right of self defense in the second amendment. With tens of thousands of illegals entering our state unvetted, it is creating a safety issue for me and my family. I have a right to defend my self from dangerous individuals and this is why the second amendment was written.

I believe the intent of this bill is a power grab to control innocent law abiding citizens and will have little to no affect on saving lives but rather to putting gun owners at risk of losing their lives.

Arlen Norwood
31222 Naples CT NE
Cambridge, MN

Feb 28th, 2024

To whom it may concern and the Legislators of Minnesota. I have some important points in regards to HF4300 And several other Bills that have come to my attention.

As the Authoritarian left makes tremendous efforts to simply erase whats left of my Enumerated rights, in spite of centurys of legal precedent and the historical tradition of property rights and firearms ownership here in Minnesota. Whether it is "safe storage" requests, assault weapons bans, magazine capacity restrictions, or even this states for profit conceal shall issue carry permitting scheme. The state has less than zero authority to regulate or enforce any of it.

What the Left in the twin citys needs to understand, is that For millions of Minnesotans, many of whom are combat arms MOS veterans from various branches and or law enforcment. These proposals are correctly and intently viewed as direct violations of enumerated rights. These proposals are in direct conflict with our oaths to protect and serve the constitution of these United States and we will enthusiastically and very literally die on this hill to physically Resist violent efforts to violate our rights. What the authoritarian left likes to skip over in these hearings is the staggering amount of gun violence these proposals will take to enforce on otherwise peaceful, law abiding citizens, who simply and correctly reject these unconstitutional efforts and any presumption of authority by those tasked and willing to enforce them.

Since under current Supreme Court case Law these proposals have no legal teeth and will be, to qoute Norton v. Shelby County, z118 U.S. 425 (1886) "are inoperative as though They had never been passed".

I hear many times state legislators reject the idea of their laws passing any common sense constitutional scrutiny before pushing Them.

To those individuals i say you need to resign over violations of your oath of office and federal law. Please reference 18 USC 1918 as well as 5 USC 7311, see also 18 USC 241 and 241 for conspiracy against rights violations penalties under the law. Any law enforcement in your vicinity who do not enforce these statutes are thus also in violation of these statutes.

Furthermore and it pays to acknowledge, the substantial waste of state tax dollars and private org expenses, to litigate these obvious infringements through corrupted inferior courts. As well as years worth of injury To the citizens whos rights are being violated during litigation. Factors that should absolutely weigh heavily on the conscience of any

self respecting legislator, governor or law enforcement officer. Irreparable harm to Enumerated Rights opens up the state, law enforcement and the courts to untold volumes of civil rights violations liability both financially and criminally.

I urge you to understand that the gun violence you experience in the twin cities will not be altered or reduced by any of these acts. But you will be alienating a potential ally and causing untold harm to millions by enacting it. Especially since we have less than zero intention of complying with any of it. As neither This body nor law enforcement have any authority to do any of it. Find other solutions, leave peaceful people alone, for the sake of greater Minnesota. For a peaceful coexistence with urban city centers and rural communities that feed you. Reconsider these positions.

Sincerely,

Bo O'Hanlon

Semper Fidelis

From: Bradley Hanneman 22360 Linden Drive, Rogers, MN 55374

To: Minnesota Legislators

RE: HF 4300, HF 601 hearing testimony

I am opposed passage of the bills HF 4300, and HF601. I oppose all bills that all legislation that impedes my right 2cnd amendment to keep and bear arms.

Bradley Hanneman

22360 Linden Drive

Rogers, MN. 55374

612-839-1081

Ellen McDaniel,

I am opposed to HF4300. I believe this is an egregious violation of my 2nd Amendment rights.

Brian Ellingson

Longville, MN. 56655

My name is Brian Murphy and I strongly oppose HF 4300 (“safe storage”) and HF 601 (mandatory lost and stolen reporting).

Both of these bills, like all gun control laws, WILL NOT reduce crime. There are several things you can do to reduce crime but restricting the constitutional rights of law abiding citizens will not.

Instead, try education children about firearm safety, like in schools. Then, prosecute criminals for all the crimes they commit. These are just two examples of what really would reduce crimes with guns.

Thank You

Brian Murphy

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Brian Wagner, I am a citizen of Minnesota, and an advocate of our 2nd amendment rights. I am a husband, a father, and a responsible gun owner. I am writing to voice my firm opposition to proposed gun control legislation in bills HF 4300 and HF 601. I firmly oppose any infringement of Minnesotan's right to keep and bear arms, an individual right guaranteed to every citizen. The Bill of Rights states that, "the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed". It is outside the authority of the government to remove this constitutional right. I support enforcing laws already in place and preventing the rampant recidivism seen in the criminal community.

Brian Wagner

1671 Noric St

Shakopee, MN 55379

Good morning. As a Minnesota Resident, I wanted to provide my comments on HF 601 and HF 4300.

Regarding HF 601: Requiring lost and stolen firearms to be reported within 48 hours to police or the gun owner will face criminal charges is meaningless - This is the gun control equivalent of "she shouldn't have worn that dress". This punishes the victim of a crime while doing nothing to deter the thief. What do you do with this information? Let say someone steals a lawfully owned firearm in Minneapolis. Are MPD officers going to fan out across the city, not resting until they find that one missing weapon? Maybe send a social worker to investigate? They can't even prevent car jackings, in broad daylight, in busy intersections. The only reason has been proposed is to come full circle, punish the victim, and deter lawful gun ownership with the threat of open ended liability for any crimes committed with their stolen property. Gun owners should have no liability morally, legally, nor financially when they are the victim of a crime.

Regarding HF 4300: Requiring "safe storage" is also a gaslight. It is a fig leaf to show constituents that they "did something". First it is completely unenforceable, as police do not have time to visit every home to ensure compliance. As I understand it is already illegal to give a minor access to deadly weapon, so it is also redundant. Further, it is one more impediment to a person, perhaps living alone where their firearms are no threat to anyone else, to defending themselves. If you really want to help, provide tax credits or better yet, cash reimbursements to folks who choose to buy a safe.

Thanks,

Carl Lavell



Cass County Sheriff's Office
Bryan Welk
Sheriff

Cass County Attorney's Office
Benjamin Lindstrom
County Attorney

February 28, 2024

**Re: A statement from County Attorney Ben Lindstrom and Sheriff Bryan Welk on
Proposed House Floor Bills 601 and 4300**

Honorable Representatives,

The Public Safety Committee of the House of Representatives is about to consider two bills that relate to the ownership and possession of firearms by law abiding citizens. We write to express our concern that these proposals will do nothing to impact the misuse of firearms and will only burden law-abiding citizens and local law enforcement with additional duties.

The policy goals purportedly underlying these proposals are already advanced by current Minnesota law. For example:

Minnesota Statute § 609.666 makes it a gross misdemeanor to negligently store or leave a loaded firearm where a person reasonably should know that a child is likely to gain access to it unless reasonable action is taken to secure the firearm against access by the child.

Minnesota Statute § 624.713 makes it a felony for a child to possess a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon without direct adult supervision. When coupled with Minnesota Statute 260B.425, it is a crime for an adult to contribute to the delinquency of a child by providing them with such firearms.

These statutes already protect children by requiring adults to limit their access to loaded firearms in the absence of adult supervision. HF 4300 on the other hand makes it a crime to own a firearm if it is not locked up or within immediate control. This is true even if you have no children and live alone. Likewise, this proposal will do nothing to prevent unauthorized access to firearms and will create financial burdens to ownership by law abiding citizens. By its very terms, HF 4300 permits compliance with the mere use of a trigger lock. Such a lock does nothing to prevent a bad actor from stealing a firearm and then transporting it to another location where the lock can be defeated, and the firearm freed for future use in crime. At the other end of the spectrum, a large quality safe can cost thousands of dollars, creating an insurmountable financial barrier to lawful firearms ownership.

A mandatory storage requirement also raises constitutional concerns. In 2021, the United States Supreme Court issued its decision in *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen*, where it struck down New York gun restrictions because they prevented law abiding citizens with ordinary self-defense needs from exercising their Second Amendment Right to keep and bear arms in public for self-defense.

HF 4300 does more than limit the right to self defense in public, it limits it inside one's very home. If this storage law passes, it will most certainly invite expensive litigation in any case where prosecution of a violation is attempted. In good times, a prosecutor's office must allocate finite resources across a spectrum of cases. That is, each criminal prosecution comes with thousands of dollars of potential litigation costs because people are constitutionally entitled to due process if they choose to exercise their rights. Budgets are such that only a fraction of this amount can be allocated to a given case on average. In the past few years, County Attorneys' Offices across this State have seen a hiring crisis. The Cass County Attorney's Office had a vacancy for roughly 15 months. That is a big deal in a small office. Criminalizing law-abiding gun owners and inviting expensive litigation does nothing to protect public safety and makes it more difficult to prosecute people who actually harm other people.

With respect to HF 601, it creates a duty to report lost or stolen firearms within 48 hours of their loss or theft. The proposed law can be read to impute knowledge of such thefts with its "reason to know" standard. This means criminal liability can be attached even when a person lacks actual knowledge of the loss or theft. This proposal on its face makes criminals out of victims. If criminal laws related to theft and burglary do not stop these crimes, how does punishing the victim stop them? In reality, a duty to report within 48 hours has the capacity to disincentivize reporting because it creates criminal liability if a report misses this narrow deadline.

If the legislature is looking for solutions to the problems of gun violence, it should look at giving law enforcement the tools and resources to deal with the laws already on the books. Expanded funding for corrections, mental health and substance abuse would do far more to solve problems than making criminals out of law-abiding gun owners.

Respectfully,



Benjamin T. Lindstrom
Cass County Attorney
P.O. Box 3000
303 Minnesota Avenue W
Walker, MN 56484
218-547-7255



Bryan Welk
Cass County Sheriff
P.O. Box 1119
303 Minnesota Avenue W
Walker, MN 56484
218-547-1424

Date: February 27, 2024

To: MN House of Representatives – Democrats
House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
Children and Families Committee

From: Concerned MN Resident

Re: HF601 – Her
HFXXXX – Becker – Finn

As I watch the local news and see the effects of violence perpetrated by criminal individuals and groups, I believe your efforts are focused in the wrong direction.

Bills such as **HF601 – Her** and **HFXXXX – Becker – Finn**, so called “safe storage”, are not going to do anything to curb the violence occurring all around us, but rather will continue to erode the rights and liberties of law-abiding gun owners.

In reality, crimes are not occurring because of legal gun owners. Please vote **“NO”** on these bills and re-focus your efforts on curbing the violence perpetrated by criminal individuals and groups.

Respectfully,
Christine Maros

Minnesota State Legislature
Children Finance and Policy Committee

27 February 2024

Clinton Russell Lilyquist II
Longville, MN 56655

Dear Legislators,

I want to go on record of being **EXTREMELY OPPOSED** to HR 4300/XXXX. This is absolutely unnecessary, and a huge violation of my constitutional rights "2A".

Sincerely,
Clinton Russell Lilyquist II

gun storage bill

ellen.mcdaniel@house.mn.gov

gun storage bill

YOU cannot take away the rights of legal gun owners in MN! We need the right to protect ourselves and our families. The answer is END the stupid sanctuary city! We need police free to do their jobs. This recent example shows criminals will get guns no matter what-don't take away our 2nd amendment rights.

Dalan and Debby Miller
Bemidji, MN

Sans Serif

Send

Hello my name is David Lubowitz. I reside in St Cloud. I am writing to oppose HF 4300 and HF 601.

Current law as defined in MN 609.666 prohibits the negligent storage of a loaded firearm in a location where a child is likely to gain access. The current law makes HF 4300 unnecessary at best, and an example of bad legislation.

HF 601 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. Why would the State of MN want to criminalize law abiding citizens and implement such punitive penalties?

In conclusion I will mention that the recent tragedy in Burnsville was caused by a criminal that attained a gun illegally. Neither of these laws would have prevented the tragedy. We can all agree that reducing violent crime is the goal. I would ask that the focus of legislation should be on punishing criminals not law abiding citizens. I want to thank you for your work at the legislature.

David Lubowitz

I'm including the 2nd amendment of the US constitution.

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Date: February 27, 2024

To: Ellen.McDaniel@House.Mn.Gov.

From: Dennis Anderson, Menahga, Minnesota

Subject: Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 609.666 amended to read:
609.666 NEGLIGENT STORAGE OF FIREARMS.

This bill as written places the lives of law-abiding firearms owners at risk.

On practical terms the bill cannot be enforced.

The bill mandates involuntary cost burdens on firearms owners.

The bill assigns egregiously harsh and unwarranted penalties to law-abiding firearms owners potentially required to defend themselves and their families with lethal force.

Lives at risk: The persons listed in this bill as not allowed to own firearms describe people of a criminal mind who ignore firearms law and while armed are known to attack citizens in their homes. Seldom do they give advance notice of their intent to violently enter those homes.

Citizens suddenly confronted with this invasion have their lives now at risk. There is no time available to load ammunition and unlock a defensive firearm or otherwise go to and unlock a gun safe or some other storage unit. Thus defenseless, homeowners are immediately at the mercy of whatever violence may now await them which can be their death.

Bill not enforceable: Do the authors of this bill expect law authorities everywhere in Minnesota to be given the right to continually inspect the belongings of citizens in their homes or elsewhere to ensure the terms of the bill are adhered to? Given the level of crime now existing, the majority of citizens who recognize they were born with a right to life and lawfully own firearms are simply not going to comply with this bill given the implications of its terms.

Cost burden of the bill: The money that would have to be spent by firearm owners to comply with this bill would be of no small matter to many of them. Given ever rising prices for food, shelter, and numerous other living necessities, spending budgets for these citizens must necessarily be limited to their basic needs. Expenditures to meet the requirements of this bill are not one of those needs. The further burden here is the person who cannot afford to comply with it is now deemed guilty of a crime.

Unwarranted penalties: Consider the firearms owner who for whatever reason is not in compliance with the locking/storage terms of this bill. That person if confronted with the threat of bodily harm or death may have no other defensive option but to use that firearm which can result in the bodily harm or death of another person or persons. Given the wording of this bill, the firearms owner is now guilty of a felony with severe consequences. There is no justice in that scenario whatsoever.

All things considered, this bill as worded must clearly be rejected.

Thank you, Dennis Anderson

Members of the House Committee on Public Safety,

I write to oppose the proposed legislation regarding the reporting of lost and stolen firearms. (HF 601 (Her)) While well-intentioned, this bill imposes stringent reporting requirements that may prove burdensome for law-abiding firearm owners.

The swift escalation of penalties, from petty misdemeanor to gross misdemeanor for repeat violations, raises concerns of disproportionate punishment for inadvertent lapses in compliance.

While immunity from prosecution is offered to compliant individuals, the practical challenges of adhering to these requirements may undermine the effectiveness of this provision.

A more effective approach to reducing gun violence would be to rigorously enforce laws against crimes perpetrated with firearms that are already on the books. By focusing on enforcement rather than imposing additional burdens on responsible gun owners, we can achieve the goal of public safety without unduly infringing on individual rights.

I urge the committee to reconsider this legislation and explore alternative approaches that balance public safety with the rights of firearm owners.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
James Woodson
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Members of the House Committee on Public Safety,

I vehemently oppose the proposed firearms storage legislation. While the objective of bolstering public safety is admirable, the bill's current form presents serious concerns that must be addressed.

The legislation's insistence on universal firearm storage units and locking devices, even within one's home, poses significant challenges for law-abiding firearm owners. Such measures risk impeding timely access to firearms for self-defense purposes, potentially endangering individuals, and their families.

Moreover, the proposed penalties for non-compliance are unduly harsh and could unfairly penalize responsible gun owners for minor oversights. This approach risks criminalizing inadvertent errors in storage practices and creating unnecessary friction between law enforcement and law-abiding citizens.

Instead of imposing additional regulations, I urge a focus on enforcing existing laws against actual crimes committed with firearms and fostering a culture of responsible firearm ownership. Strengthening enforcement mechanisms and investing in educational initiatives would be more effective in reducing gun violence and promoting safe storage practices without unfairly burdening honest, responsible, gun owners.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to reconsider this legislation and pursue alternative strategies that prioritize community safety while respecting the rights of firearm owners.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
James Woodson
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

February 28, 2024

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

Members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee:

I oppose House File 601.

This bill effectively criminalizes victims of loss or crime. Under no other circumstance could an American citizen be charged for not reporting a loss or theft of property. The arbitrary nature of the bill is clearly intended as an attack against lawful gun owners.

Respectfully,



Jason C. Bever

February 28, 2024

Re: House File 4300 – Safe Storage of firearms and ammunition required; locking device required to be included in each firearms transfer, and criminal penalties imposed.

Members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee:

I oppose House File 4300.

“Being necessary to a free state, the RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED”.

The State has no authority to constrain my Right under the Constitution of the United States of America. Any infringement is in direct violation.

Respectfully,



Jason C. Bever

Joe and Kristi Brakke

Park Rapids, MN 56470

To whom it may concern,

House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee, "safe storage" bill.

We are writing you today regarding the many house bills in review House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee. Any house bill such as HF3628 that is proposed in Minnesota in which will infringe on the rights of the US citizens Second Amendment rights will be challenged in court and by public protest. These actions will be challenged all the way to the Supreme Court where many Minnesota resources will be expended (taxpayer dollars) to defend such restrictions of our Constitution Rights forgiven to citizens of the United States of America's Constitution Article 2. These tax dollars the State of Minnesota will spend in creating these restrictive and rights stripping rules could be used proactively in crime prevention and mental illness treatment.

In the recent case of the Burnsville incident, all the current restrictions failed such as the red flag law and within the legal system where serious offenders are not monitored or incarcerated, when all the warning signs were in the eyes of the authority. These rules and regulations did nothing to prevent this tragedy. If one was followed it may have prevented this tragedy. God rest their souls.

Adding more rules and restrictions vs. enforcing the current laws that have proven to be within Constitutional guidelines, would be the best way to tackle these shooting incidents vs creating more laws that will not be enforced. They fact that criminals and illegal immigrants are not being retained for legal proceedings exposes us all to more street violence and deaths. Taking and restriction our gun access will play into more lawlessness and unfortunate deaths. Unforce the laws that are on the books!

ATTENTION: ELLEN MCDANIEL

PERTAINING TO BILL HF601 AND HF4300

Representatives, this is to inform you that I, Joe Bartel, strongly oppose the passing of these bills. Please stop trying to make law abiding, tax paying gun owners of MN criminals by the stroke of the pen with your unconstitutional laws. We are not the problem. Your sanctuary status rewards criminals and demonize law abiding gun owners. Please make an effort to support law enforcement and stop letting criminals free to roam our streets without consequences. Thank you for your attention on this pressing matter.

Sincerely, Joseph T. Bartel

To whom it may concern,

I'm am opposed to both bills that will be heard on Thursday Feb. 28th 2024.

These anti-gun bills will do nothing to help with "safety" of the public.

These anti-gun laws will only hurt law abiding citizens and infringe on our constitutional rights.

Respectfully,

Joe Scherer

Hello,

I'm writing in opposition to the "safe" storage legislation being proposed in the Minnesota House and Senate.

This bill complicates very personal issues of self-defense in one's home and gives anti-gun zealots a tool with which to harass and harm Minnesota gun owners at their discretion.

As a life long Minnesotan I am opposed to this bill. Honest and reasonable people will oppose this bill as well.

Best regards,
John Lemke
Houston MN 55943

February 28th, 2024

Bill HF 4300 as well as HF 601, are both flawed in one of two core ways, they place additional false responsibility for others actions on peaceable firearms owners. They do this by creating additional steps that harm that individual's ability to defend themselves in the event of serious threat, or punish them for the crimes of another.

This affects every single firearms owner that I know. It creates further hoops to make ownership more difficult and fearful for both friends who want a firearm to defend themselves, and for those I know who just want one for sport. Creating new blanket punishments will not stop anyone who doesn't care about firearm safety, it will only hurt peaceable people who want to responsibly utilize their rights.

HF 4300 does not answer the issue of others obtaining firearms who should not, while putting firearms owners lives in danger. First, children who obtain firearms is not a sign of lack of safe storage, but a sign of a lack of safety training. Millions of parents teach their children how to safely use a firearm or the importance of leaving them be, without issue. As with anything, if a kid knows it's there, then they can get to it, punishing parents who are safe with their firearms but don't meet HF 4300, will not stop anything, other than punish peaceable people. Second, the innumerable circumstances where a firearm may be outside of an individual's direct physical control and yet still be safe makes this bill horrid.

Just one example comes from my personal experience, doing trap shooting in high school. I was taught safety through a course, and from my father. After a competition I would return home, and safely clear his firearm, disassemble, and clean, without my parents present. This bill would punish my parents, and innumerable others, for teaching me gun safety, and responsibility.

HF 601 is terrible, not only for firearms, but because it changes where responsibility lies for crimes period. When a firearm is stolen, the owner has had a crime committed to them. To then punish them for the crime of another is absurd, and for the life of me I can't understand how this is even being discussed.

When it comes down to why these are simply bad bills, the basic answer is this, neither will answer the problems we have, nor will they punish the right people, they will in fact do the opposite, punishing peaceable people, who, meeting the standards demanded of responsible gun ownership still fall short of ineffective laws.

On a final note, bills like this are the reason the majority of my friends and family who wish to start sport shooting, or have a gun for self defense, but have not done so yet. They all share a common fear. That is a fear, not of doing anything wrong or unsafe, but that in the milieu of gun

regulations, they may be put in the crosshairs of ineffective laws that do more to help criminals than themselves. They fear exercising their individual God given rights because of bills like this, rather than reasonable apprehension.

Please consider what peaceable gun owners say about these bills, and organizations like MN Gun Caucus. These will only do harm, not solve our real problems.

Jonathan Russell

To All that should know and be concerned,

I am a fellow law abiding US citizen. I do not choose to own a conceal and carry certification but certainly DO NOT oppose any law abiding citizen to own and carry. To ensure understanding of my meaning... I have worked in the hospitality industry for over 33 years and have gone through countless situations with "recklessness" or people that did not behave well toward others, showing anger and/or rage. Behaviors that were truly violent and really noone should be around. While knowing how fortunate I am today reminds me of how unfortunate my past stories could have been.

Two things that I wish to describe.

#1 Everyone knows to dial 911 when things are bad. This practice is promoted and done everywhere, all the time throughout our nation. Thing is, completion

for our officers, EMTs, or whichever personnel is necessary, their trip takes time to arrive, hopefully not to much, but most take SOME FORM OF TIME.

#2 The minutes and seconds to wait for police, EMTs, etc... many things can happen inside violent situations or even "heated" situations.

Looking back at my own stories, 100% of all situations were where employees, guests, or even passerbyes intervened to cool things down, or to enact actions to do the right thing and to keep the situation even keeled, peaceful... until police got there.

Regular citizens at the bars, restaurants, hotels, large venues, outdoor events, all sorts of capacities ARE the first people on scene. These people and the protection that they wish to give... I am honored to have at any time, anywhere, at any place.

DO NOT REMOVE TIME, this is something where
TIME CANNOT BE CONTROLLED. Good Samaritans
are among us everywhere, all the time.

THANK YOU,

Kate Kujawa

Ellen Mcdaniel

Minnesota House Representative

RE HF4300

Stop the Safe Storage Bill

Dear Ellen,

Thank you for your service to the Minnesota people.

I am writing to you about the HF 4300. My family lives in rural Minnesota where police response time to a crime could take an hour. This new bill as written will impede our ability and every law abiding citizen the ability to defend ourselves from criminals.

Kevin Kocurek

(218) 255 2050

38487 County road 23

Menahga MN 56464

TO: ellen.mcdaniel@house.mn.gov

FROM: Marc Olivier

RE: MN House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee Hearings on HF 4300 and HF 601

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HF 4300 AND HF601

HF 4300 is unnecessary and redundant, since there is already a law on the books regarding endangering children (609.378). Children do not visit or enter my home. If protecting children in my home is the rationale for this bill, then it's a total waste of time and effort on your part, as well as an intrusion. Another law (604.01) spells out (financial) liability for harm caused by negligence.

The provision of locking up firearms as cited in the bill is an impediment to acting swiftly when immediate self-defense is required. In effect, this provision puts the State in league with violent criminals by making it harder for targeted victims to defend themselves. This is further corroborated by legislative efforts to REDUCE criminal penalties for felons convicted of crimes with guns, with no active effort at rehabilitation or evaluation of such required.

HF 601 is unnecessary but it is also unfair and intrusive in that Section 1 Subd. 3 withholds immunity from the victim of theft or burglary unless the victim is in FULL compliance with conditions cited in HF 4300. There is NO situation in which I would NOT immediately report a lost or stolen firearm to local law enforcement. After all, not only do I wish to avoid any criminal or civil liability for any criminal acts committed with the firearm, the bad actor may have stolen the firearm to do me harm.

What HF 601 actually does is create a situation where it's the victim's word against that of the bad actor who stole the firearm, who can and likely would fabricate a narrative to somehow include the victim in the perpetrator's criminal act to lessen his or her own perceived role in minds of authorities.

Minnesota State Legislature
Children Finance and Policy Committee

27 February 2024

Mary Jo Baarsch, HD5A
2640 Raven Ln NW
Backus, MN 56435

Dear Legislators,

I am adamantly opposed to legislation that continues to thwart our 2nd Amendment rights to bear arms – including HFXXXX.

Why do we continue to create useless laws that infringe on legal gun owners' rights and uses of firearms to protect themselves and their property, while we diminish the sentences of bona fide law breakers and criminals? Why do we not analyze how to reduce the crimes against law abiding citizens by criminals? Why do we not recognize that creating additional laws does nothing to stop those that don't abide by the existing laws we have?

I live in Northern Minnesota, where a 911 call will result in significant wait time to receive any assistance or protection from a break-in or threat. We rely on our firearms to protect our property, our livestock, our families, and our pets.

Perhaps you are aware of the increased predation by wolves in Northern Minnesota? I might add, that this is also a result of a lack of understanding of the increase in the wolf population and the ridiculousness of having them protected by the Endangered Species Act. That being said, my neighbor's cattle have been killed by wolf attacks in the past few months and our pets have also gone missing or have been found mutilated by apparent wolf attacks. In Ely and in Duluth, wolves have been coming into the town and attacking pets.

In February, I had wolves directly in front of my home two days in a row, while walking my dog. So, everyday I walk my dog and I carry a handgun – loaded – with me. The wolves have been brazen and unafraid of humans, attacking a dog recently within 20 feet of its owner. How would you suggest I protect myself and my beloved dog? And now you are telling me that multiple times a day, after walking my dog, I will need to separate my gun from its ammunition and store it securely?

This is just one example I am giving you of how I use my gun daily. But what about a break-in in my home? My husband travels frequently and I am home to defend myself and my home in a remote location. I want my gun close and ready to be used. It is my responsibility to take precautions for safe use and storage, not the state and not the federal government.

I have no children in my home, we live in a remote area where most of my neighbors aren't even here in the winter. This law is ridiculous and unconstitutional. We are not the people you need to worry about. Please take care of the law BREAKERS and provide clear and known sentencing guidelines so that they know they will be dealt with in a strict way consistent with the severity of their crimes. Instead, criminals are being released early, sentencing is being reduced and they KNOW this, hence you see more crime then ever before. Law abiding citizens need their guns more today than yesterday as a result.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Baarsch, HD5A

Citizen Statement on HF 601 “Mandatory Lost and Stolen Reporting”

To Whom it May Concern:

I find it ethically immoral to criminalize victims for not reporting their victimhood in an amorphous “practicable” timeframe if they “should have reasonably known” it was stolen. Who exactly is the arbiter of these standards? The devil is often in the details; I would urge the committee to use more specific language rather than paint with a broad brush. Surely the State should seek out and prosecute the person(s) that stole any firearm and do their utmost to find and hold those individuals to account rather than seek to punish victims. We do this with no other crime. The precedent of criminalizing victims for not reporting is a dark and dystopian path and I urge you -- in the strongest possible terms -- to not walk down it.

Finally, I would suggest you look at data. And in the absence of data, to think logically. What is the problem we are seeking to solve here? How many people are withholding the fact that they have been robbery/theft victims, firearms being involved or not? My most charitable reading of this bill is to presume that it is an attempt to curtail or dissuade straw purchases; an activity that is already illegal. Those willing to engage in criminal activity are not going to be dissuaded by another piece of legislation that is entirely redundant. The possibility, however, of criminalizing legitimate victims that are already traumatized is a real and likely outcome.

Sacrificing victims in an attempt to catch the criminals is not the way to accomplish anything legitimate. Focusing on the outcome you want does not wash your hands of establishing a process that is ethical. We cannot view the punishment of victims for not reporting as a legitimate means to any end.

I do not support this bill.

Regards,

Michael Li

Minnesota Resident

Citizen Statement on HF 4300 "Safe Storage Bill"

To Whom it May Concern:

Firstly, I wish to applaud the removal of the requirement to store a firearm in an unloaded state. The act of constantly loading and unloading a firearm is in fact one of the most dangerous part manipulating a firearm. While I can appreciate the sentiment of wanting to make things safer, I can only commend the realization that the unintended consequences may be more dangerous.

The new version, however, takes aim at very typical and safe firearm handling and seeks to criminalize it. Specifically, the "Access to firearms" subdivision of the bill is way too broad. A firearm may not be in "direct physical control" but still be in a perfectly safe environment. For example, at a range there may be a reason to not be in "direct physical control" to consult with, or notify a Range Safety Officer about a safety issue or otherwise urgent issue that would put one at odds with the bill as described. I presume you are not seeking to criminalize such a situation, but the bill as written does not allow for nuance. It states "Direct physical control".

As written this is too broad of a brush that will similarly have unintended consequences that I would urge the committee to explore and amend the language to apply to the specific situations that are intended when you use the phrase "direct physical control". I do not support this bill in its current form.

Regards,

Michael Li

Minnesota Resident

February 28, 2023

Rep. Leon Lillie
175 State Office Bldg, Rm 365
St Paul, MN 55155-1298

RE: HF 4300 - "Safe" Storage Bill, HF 601 - Mandatory Lost and Stolen Reporting

Dear Representative Lillie:

I am writing to you to OPPOSE the above gun control bills. Neither will address the real cause of crime, and both are aimed at the law abiding firearm owner and not the criminal.

If you really want to do something about criminal access to guns you need to stop writing laws and start enforcing them. As noted by recent reporting on mandatory minimum sentence for those who use firearms in the commission of crimes, the record is pathetic. The article concludes with the following:

“...Of the 773 felony cases in Hennepin County that allegedly involved a firearm, only 28.7% saw a mandatory minimum sentence imposed and carried out. Of those who were convicted, about 48% did not get a mandatory minimum sentence.”

Over 40% of convicted gun crimes don't get mandatory minimum sentence.

Minnesota saw a significant increase in felony cases where the defendant allegedly used or possessed a firearm. By Luke Sprinkel. *Alpha News*, January 17, 2024

The attached flowchart shows how few cases resulted in mandatory minimum sentences.

It laughable that gun owners should be required to report firearm thefts within 48 hours. Where is the requirement that police departments must vigorously investigate the theft of firearms? In general, they have given up investigating ANY thefts because the DA's and courts just engage in "catch and release," allowing the criminals to re-offend within hours, if not days.

It's not often that I would say this, but we should take lessons places like El Salvador, once one of the most crime ridden countries in the western hemisphere.

The number of homicides in El Salvador dropped nearly 70% during 2023, the Central American country's security authorities said on Wednesday, crediting a prolonged state of emergency declared by the government of President Nayib Bukele to fight crime gangs.

Justice and Security Minister Gustavo Villatoro said 154 murders were committed last year, down from 495 the year before.

That implies a homicide rate of 2.4 per every 100,000 people, which Villatoro said was the lowest in the Americas apart from Canada... [emphasis added]

El Salvador says murders fell 70% in 2023 as it cracked down on gangs. Reuters, January 3, 2024

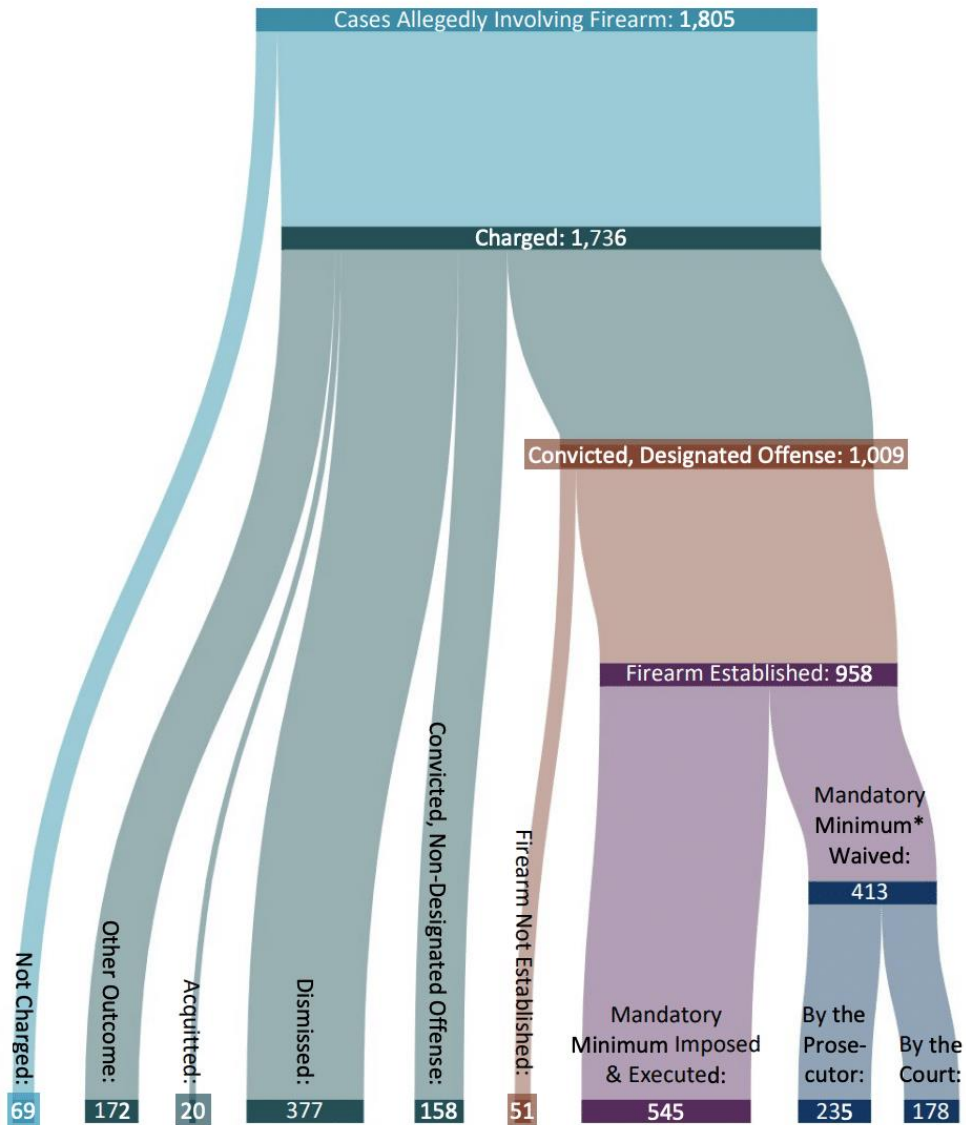
Deterrence works! Even criminals respond to incentives and disincentives. Only when you support law enforcement and allow them to do their jobs, will things will change. Until then, you are tinkering at the edges and fooling yourselves.

With regards,

Michael J Walt
2661 Eldridge Ave E
North St Paul, MN 55109

Mobile: (651) 274-6146
Email: cyn_du_nord@comcast.net

Figure 26. Disposition of Cases, Alleged Designated Offenses Involving Firearms, as Reported by County Attorneys, Cases Disposed of Between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023



Michael Gelhar

18260 Hamel Dr, Lakeville MN 55044

February 28, 2024

To: The House Public Safety & Children and Families Committees

HF 4300 - "Safe" Storage Bill

I am against the "safe" storage legislation being proposed in the Minnesota House and Senate.

This bill complicates very personal issues of self-defense in one's home. As a responsible gun owner who already employs reasonable safety precautions with firearms in my home, I believe this bill is not good legislation.

I have the following concerns with this bill:

- In terms of rapid response to potentially violent crimes committed against me or my family within my home, this bill would restrict my ability to defend myself or my family in my home with reasonable force until law enforcement arrives.
- It equates the proper way of storing a firearm in rural Minnesota with how one might store a firearm with children in the home in the metro.
- It provides a one-size-fits-all, incomplete legislative solution to a fake "problem"
- Today, prosecutors do not prosecute the existing crime around safe storage, and the legislature wants to create yet another crime for political optics. Before new laws are created, the existing laws should be enforceable.

HF 601 - Mandatory Lost and Stolen Reporting

I am against the Mandatory Lost and Stolen Reporting legislation being proposed in the Minnesota House and Senate.

My opposition is based on the following two challenges the bill fails to resolve:

- 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, just as one example.

No citizen of a free state 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.

I am a member and/or supporter of the Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus. They speak for me in Saint Paul.

Signed, Michael Gelhar

I can't believe there are some Rep in Minnesota that want to control what goes on in our homes. To even suggest that if you have a Firearm stolen for your home you will be held accountable if it's used in a crime is absurd. Are going to do the same if your cars is stolen and kill someone can you be held accountable. Same with a knife, hammer, or nail gun Are the same standards going to apply. How about Judge and jury who releases a person and that person commits murder are they held accountable. Where does the insanity stop and common sense start.

The people that think this going to work are living in a world of cotton candy and unicorns. Pull your heads out.. our federal government can't even handle these issues look overseas the number of weapons left, our border that all these unknown people are crossing, and you are trying to put these laws on the book that turn Minnesota citizens in jail. Why aren't you worried about all these non American people collecting benefits that tax payers of Minnesota are funding. No you are more worried how people store there firearms and who to blame.. That doesn't pass the common sense test. I can't stress this enough make the punishment fit the crime that's common sense law.. I guess some of our state politicians can't understand this concept.

I can't understand how any buddy thinks this will make a difference. All that will happen is putting law abiding citizens in jail for something that's beyond their controls. Let's make a law that all politicians that lie, cheat, put there own ideas above the people they represent, breach of oath of office and made to take lie detector test once a year. If they fail any of these requirements they are out of office never able be able to hold any office in the government once their out of jail. That would make a big difference!

Ronnie Jaenisch

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HF 4300 AND HF 601

02/29/2024 - House Public Safety & Children and Families hearing on HF 4300 and HF 601

SUBMITTED BY STEVEN KENDALL JOSEPH MCCARNEY

HF 4300: STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

- (1) This Bill unreasonably infringes on the right to self-defense within the home.
 - a. Many citizens have firearms in their home for the purpose of lawful self-defense against an unlawful intruder.
 - i. Such an unlawful intruder would be likely to unlawfully enter a citizen's home at night.
 - ii. Requiring a locking device to be upon a citizen's firearm, which is also required to be unloaded, or requiring that a citizen's firearm be locked in a safe, when such firearm is kept in the citizen's home for the purpose of lawful self-defense inside the home, is unreasonable, and puts the citizen's life at risk in the case of an unlawful entry of the citizen's home by an unlawful intruder.
 - iii. A citizen attempting to place a firearm under their direct physical control for the purpose of using that firearm for lawful self-defense inside the home, should not have to attempt to remove a gun lock from their firearm in the dark and then load the firearm, or remove their firearm from a safe in the dark, after they have been roused from their sleep by an unlawful intruder.
 - iv. An unlawful intruder is not going to wait for a citizen to take their gun lock off and load their firearm, or remove their firearm from a locked safe, before unlawfully harming the citizen inside the citizen's home.
 - b. This Bill was authored by someone who either doesn't understand what lawful self-defense with a firearm inside the home entails, or doesn't care, and has contempt for citizens exercising their Constitutional Right of maintaining a readily and reasonably accessible firearm in their home for the purpose of lawful self-defense inside the home.

- (2) This Bill unreasonably endangers citizens attempting to lawfully use a firearm for the purpose of lawful self-defense inside the home.
 - a. An unlawful intruder is unlikely to wait for a citizen to remove a trigger lock and then load their firearm, or remove their firearm from a locked safe.

- (3) This Bill, if enacted, would violate the Constitutional Rights of citizens of the State of Minnesota.
 - a. Please read: *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570, 128 S. Ct. 2783, 2787, 171 L. Ed. 2d 637 (2008) (“**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.**”) (Emphasis Added).

- (4) This Bill disturbingly carries criminal penalties ranging from a misdemeanor to a felony.
 - a. The Government of Minnesota should be focused on holding violent criminals accountable for their crimes, not threatening citizens with criminal penalties for wanting to have a readily accessible firearm in their home for the purpose of lawful self-defense.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HF 4300 AND HF601

02/29/2024 - House Public Safety & Children and Families hearing on HF 4300 and HF 601

SUBMITTED BY STEVEN KENDALL JOSEPH MCCARNEY

HF 601: MANDATORY REPORTING OF LOST AND STOLEN FIREARMS

- (1) This Bill places an unnecessary and unreasonable restriction upon lawful citizens.
 - a. Lawful citizens should not be burdened with having to report any part or possible portion of their exercising of a fundamental Constitutional Right to the government.
 - b. The Government of Minnesota should be focused on holding violent criminals accountable for their crimes, not threatening non-violent citizens with penalties for failing to make a report to law enforcement.

- (2) This Bill will not reduce violent crime.
 - a. This Bill contains no indication or provision that law enforcement will go out and seek to find firearms that are reported lost or stolen.
 - i. Therefore, at best this Bill will be a burden upon lawful citizens, and will only apply in the criminal context, long after a violent crime has already been committed.
 - b. Ultimately, there is no evidence, cited nor provided, that mandatory reporting of lost or stolen firearms will reduce violent crime, suicide, or unintentional injuries and deaths.

- (3) Mandatory Reporting is one part of creating a “soft registry” of firearms.
 - a. There is no justifiable or constitutionally permissible purpose in requiring mandatory reporting of lost or stolen firearms.
 - i. This type of bill, combined with prohibition of “private transfers,” is an essential component in creating a “soft registry” for firearms.
 - ii. Firearm registries do not inhibit crime, and historically in countries across the world, firearm registries have been used for the purpose of confiscation of firearms from non-criminal citizens.
 - b. The Firearms Owners’ Protection Act of 1986 forbids the creation and maintenance of any firearms registry other than that associated with the National Firearms Act of 1934. See 18 U.S.C. § 926 (“No such rule or regulation prescribed after the date of the enactment of the Firearms Owners' Protection Act may require that records required to be maintained under this chapter or any portion of the contents of such records, be recorded at or transferred to a facility owned, managed, or controlled by the United States **or any State** or any political subdivision thereof, **nor that any system of registration of firearms, firearms owners, or firearms transactions or dispositions be established.** Nothing in this section expands or restricts the Secretary's authority to inquire into the disposition of any firearm in the course of a criminal investigation.”) (Emphasis Added).

I want to go on record of being EXTREMELY OPPOSED to HR 4300. There are circumstances of vague language in this Bill that do not have finite terms or are open to interpretation. The Bill does not cover firearms concerning hunting, shooting ranges, personal protection, or other lawful use. This is a massive violation of my constitutional rights "2A".

Regards,

Steven Jay Moe

Longville, MN 56655

HF XXXX Opposition

I want to express my opposition to the anti gun legislation HF XXXX. This bill as written will effectively nullify the use of guns for home defense. As such, I believe it is unconstitutional as it violates the spirit and the letter of the second amendment. It is saying you can have guns but you cannot have access to them when you most need them.

Regards,
Steve Trinkle
Federal Dam MN 56641

Ref: HF601

Dear Congress,

Requiring law abiding gun owners to lock up their firearms is a great hinderance to one of the fundamental purposes of the Second Amendment, which is the right of protection of family, and personal property. Imagine having your home being broken into in the middle of the night and in a state of confusion and panic, having to fumble around with keys or combinations while the invaders assault your wife and children, and ultimately destroy everything you hold dearly in your life.

Please focus on, and draft bills that protect the law abiding gun owners and punish those who possess guns illegally or have a record of harmful conduct. We, the mass majority of the population of the State of Minnesota, will never support laws that infringe on our constitutional rights or laws that potentially cause harm to our families. In addition, anyone proposing or supporting such legislation will not be supported regardless of party or political affiliation.

Best regards,

Ted Pillera

CD2/ SD57A

To the Public Safety & Children and Families Committees

HF601 even on its face is draconian.

Its only purpose is to punish victims of crimes. There is no other crime that requires its victims to be charged for a crime for failing to report it.

The people who this would punish are victims that have no criminal intentions whatsoever. The requirements are so subjective that a person can be charged for a crime simply for being unaware that they themselves are a victim of a crime through no will of their own.

This only hurts people who have themselves been hurt, simply for having the gall of failing to report the fact that they were hurt even if they didn't know they were hurt.

It is nothing but cruelty for cruelty's sake.

Tony Townley
Northfield, MN

To the Public Safety & Children and Families Committees

I oppose HF4300 as it sets a dangerous precedent of government overreach into people's homes governing how people choose to defend themselves. Requiring a locking device in people's homes that are themselves locked and where the occupants are peaceable adults, only takes up valuable time in accessing the most valuable tool for their defense when their lives are in danger from death or grievous bodily harm.

It is also important to note that this law would criminalize activity that president Biden himself endorsed while campaigning to restrict second amendment rights held by the people in 2013.

Tony Townley
Northfield, MN

DESTROYING INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS WON'T SOLVE GUN VIOLENCE PROBLEMS OR SOLVE GUN SAFETY ISSUES.

DUE DILIGENCE REQUIRED REGARDING STATISTICAL EVIDENCE

In 2015, the Florida State Senate heard arguments regarding a proposal to allow concealed weapons to be carried on the campuses of Florida State University. Regarding the evidence that was provided, which compared States with and without a particular gun control measure, after careful due diligence regarding the statistics and what was being compared, the general lack of statistical significance and comparability stood out.

Statistical based evidence comparing one State to another, as a basis for restricting 2nd Amendment freedoms, will never provide – forgive the pun – a smoking gun. It is near impossible to find two States that match all relevant socioeconomic, criminal and gun-ownership measures that vary in one specific way – control measures implemented within one State and not in another. And I suspect this is true across Minnesota Counties. “Strictly speaking, the state that does not get the new gun control laws should – as the “control” group – get some other superficially-similar intervention. And, ideally, neither the inhabitants nor the researchers should know which state is which (the “double-blind” part). Good luck designing that study!

Moreover, in the absence of such studies, researchers are forced to argue over observational data, which can always be analyzed in a myriad of different ways, unfortunately almost always statistically insignificant. One consideration however popped out in my research. Poverty manifested by a lifetime of government policy that invites dependency on government. In addition, some studies have shown gun control measures have no effect, while others have shown to be more detrimental.

REGARDING RESPONSE TIME FOR DEFENSE

Media reporting which I archived from 2020, just 4 years ago, documents the following e-mail response Craig Paulson of Pedego Electric Bikes of Minneapolis received from Minneapolis Inspector Sean McGinty:

As far as a long-term plan I don't have one. I have lost 30% of my street officers since the end of May. Budget cuts from COVID-19 and an additional 1.5 million from the council in August we have let go 17 CSO's and canceled a recruit class of 29. A potential Cadet class slated for January of 2021 was also eliminated. It takes about a year to get a police Officer onto the streets with hiring, backgrounds and field training so reinforcements aren't coming anytime soon. We are doing everything we can with what we have. I hate to see great businesses like yours and the rest of your corridor being victimized and feeling unsafe. Please let me know if you have any more questions.

The Reality: If an intruder breaks and enters somebody's home with obvious nefarious intent, the ability to make critical decisions quickly backed by the availability of a means of self-defense is paramount.

Democrat policy has already complicated and exacerbated social problems as the e-mail above attests: "They don't have a long-term plan. Reinforcements are not on the way. How would you feel if you received a message like that from the police?" – Jazz Shaw

In today's political environment, liberals hate discussing issues such as individual responsibility. Instead, criminals are treated as victims of "society." Thus, criminals using guns are not really lawbreakers but, in reality, the true victims. Criminals, we are told, are the true victims of such evils as systemic racism, corporate greed, climate change, and improper allocation of resources among other societal ills.

THE SOLUTION: BRING THE OLD NORMAL BACK

Gun Safety Training starting young goes hand in hand with the teaching of principles and values that promote respect for our laws, the people who enforce those laws, with our leadership and members of our society setting the right examples.

There is no excuse for carelessness and negligence in the handling of firearms. The lesson, always respect them as if loaded – keep away from Children – a parental/guardian responsibility – is paramount. Billboards, workshops, community training sessions would go a long way in this regard versus infringing on inviolable human rights.

REGARDING MN-DFL BILLS – INFRINGING 2ND AMMENDMENT RIGHTS

If these bills were truly about crime or focusing on those elements within American society without the requisite respect for the law and training, the focus would be on enforcing laws, holding criminals accountable, and expanding 2nd Amendment sanctuaries in every Minnesota county to promote and maintain gun safety training. And the MN-DFL apparently having never done this, speaks volumes about what the issues really are.



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

Letter from Anya Stupar and Sreya Subramanian
Volunteers from Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
February 29th, 2024, 10:30 AM

Dear Chairman Moller, Committee Members, and staff,

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter today. Our names are Anya Stupar and Sreya Subramanian, and we are seniors at Mounds View High School in Arden Hills.

We are writing today in support of HF601, creating a requirement that gun owners alert law enforcement if their firearms are ever lost or stolen. Lost and stolen firearms are often used in or end up in the hands of those who mean to harm themselves or others.

We are the founders of a Students Demand Action chapter at our high school. We began this chapter at the beginning of this school year in September because every student deserves to feel safe at school. At a high school close to ours, guns have been brought onto campus multiple times this school year; this has impacted high school students in our own community and their sense of safety. In our everyday lives, we as students should not need to fear for our safety while trying to pursue education; we should not need constant lockdown drills or endless debates about school security, but to us, that has become our life and our reality. We want something different for the students who come after us.

Our experience leads us to emphasize that the passage of this bill would be a huge step toward keeping our schools and communities safe. A 2017 investigation found that the majority of stolen firearms recovered by police were recovered in connection with crimes, including over 1,500 violent acts. The passage of this bill could help to reduce crimes such as these, and in turn create a safer society for us all.

We encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF601. Thank you for taking the time to read our letter today!

Sincerely,

Anya and Sreya
Mounds View High School



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 HF601, Representative Her's bill to enshrine in Minnesota statute common sense reporting practices around lost and stolen firearms in Minnesota. With gun thefts on the rise, laws requiring gun owners and dealers to report lost or stolen guns can significantly help prevent gun trafficking.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of guns are lost or stolen in America, with one gun stolen from an individual owner every two minutes. Stolen guns can be diverted to the illegal gun market, where they are used to fuel crime across the country. Lost and stolen reporting laws help reduce gun trafficking by requiring individuals to report loss or theft to law enforcement shortly after discovering it.

Laws that require firearm owners to notify law enforcement about the loss or theft of a firearm serve several public safety functions. These laws help deter gun trafficking and straw purchasing, and help law enforcement recover and return lost or stolen guns to their rightful owners. They can also help law enforcement disarm individuals who become ineligible to possess firearms.

We thank Representative Her 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.



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.

Testimony of Molly Leutz
Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
February 29th, 2024, 10:30 AM

Good afternoon Chairman Moller, Committee members, and staff. Thank you for acknowledging my testimony today.

My name is Molly Leutz

I am a lifetime resident of Minnesota, born and raised in Minneapolis. I have been a gun violence prevention advocate volunteering with Moms Demand Action for 8 years.

I am testifying today in support of HF4300 , strengthening requirements for secure storage of firearms and ammunition. Guns are the leading cause of death among kids and teens in Minnesota, and requiring secure storage is vital to saving lives. As a teenager, my good friend's brother shot himself while mishandling a family firearm, nearly losing his leg and his life. As a parent, I read and hear countless stories of children shooting themselves and others with guns they should not have access to. No matter how much I talk about the danger with my kids, I know that it only takes moments of access and negligence to forever change their lives.

My experience leads me to emphasize today that it is the responsibility of adults to securely store guns and ammunition so that they do not fall into the hands of minors. Kids are curious, and the consequences of unsecured firearms are devastating.

An average of 43 children and teens die by gun every year in Minnesota, and 49% of those deaths are suicides. Without access to a firearm in a moment of crisis, research shows that the majority of those kids would not go on to die by suicide

Despite the glaring risk to children and communities, the majority of gun owners do not secure their firearms, and 4.6 million children in the U.S. live in homes with unsecured firearms.

HF 4300 would require that a firearm be securely stored when it is not being carried by or is not under the control of its owner or another authorized user. The bill would require that unattended firearms be stored unloaded with a locking device, and separately from ammunition. Laws that require proper storage seek to encourage responsible behavior, and ensure that those who fail to secure their firearms can be held accountable.

I encourage members of the committee to vote **YES** on HF 4300.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify today.

Public Safety Committee Testimony
Hilary Brasel
Feb 29, 2023

Thank you to Public Safety Committee Chair Moeller and Children and Families Chair Pinto for hearing this bill. Thank you, Rep Becker-Finn, for introducing this legislation and connecting me to this important and personal topic.

I am here to share the tragic story of Michael Brasel, my husband who was murdered in the front yard of our home at 7:30 on Saturday morning, May 6, 2023. Michael noticed a young man breaking into our family's car and went to our front yard to stop them. Michael was shot 3 times at close range in his chest and back by a 17-year-old young man who was "the look out" for the crime. I awoke to the 3 shots, and a loud car driving away from our home. My 14-year-old son had awoken to the loud car, yelling in the front of our yard, and witnessed lots of the scene in front of our home. As a nurse, I was the first responder for Michael and tried to perform lifesaving measures, while my older son called 911 and my younger son watched the horror play out. Michael Brasel was attended to by SPFD and brought to HCMC where he was pronounced dead within 30 mins of the shooting. My sons no longer have their father, I no longer have my husband, and the ripples of his death have torn apart the lives of our family, close friends, neighbors, and countless community members as Michael was a dedicated carpenter, artist, and hockey coach.

My list of concerns for public safety related to Michael's Murder is long :

- There were 4 young men in the car, all with previous history with guns, and violent crimes both as juveniles and some as adults.
- They all had a criminal history, were on probation at the time of the crime, and specifically the shooter had just been released from probation in April 2023.
- The shooter was also pulled over on May 2, 2023, by police in the south metro, but nothing came from the traffic stop.
- These same 4 young men went out "car shopping" looking for things to steal starting the night of Friday May 5, 2023, through the early morning of May 6, 2023.
- They planned ahead to bring a gun with them "car shopping" for protection, and took turns as "look out" for each other while breaking into the cars.
- The gun they used to murder Michael, was stolen from a family member of one of the young men, as it was not properly stored by the gun owner.
- Following Michael's murder, the stolen gun was kept under the driver's seat of the getaway vehicle by the young man who broke into our family car. Meaning -- This gun was KEPT after Michael was murdered; presumably in case it was needed for future crimes.
- SPPD retrieved the gun from under the driver's seat through a traffic stop, a month after Michael's murder. This helped us have a strong case to convict the young men.
- 2 young men pleaded guilty to Michael's murder are currently serving time – but nothing will ever replace Michael's life that was taken and all the life we had yet to live together.

- It was only 57 seconds that the criminals spent at our home to drive up, break in, interact with Michael, shoot him 3 times, and speed away. But this crime will have a lifetime of consequences and our lives will never be the same.
- I urge you to support this legislation.
- I believe the proper storage of guns could have prevented Michael's murder and can prevent this type of tragedy from destroying other lives in the future.

There are additional documents that have been submitted to this committee for your reference. I hope they help tell Michael's Story, so that the loss of his life will not without change in how guns are stored and accessed in the state of Minnesota.

Points of Conversation for Gun Crimes to Focus on – Shared with John Choi Ramsey Co Attorney

1. Gratitude for help in Michaels Case – we have had so many positive outcomes considering rapid pace and the number of people involved. Also the staff has been very respectful, kind and honest about what the court process will be like and helping me navigate the cases. Curtis has been AMAZING. Madilynn, Elizabeth - have been very approachable, responsive, and kind. We are so grateful.
2. I come to this situation as a multifaceted person – with my background in nursing – specifically pediatric nursing and being aware of how complex the needs are for some communities from my work in the St Paul Children’s ER, PICU, and Mental Health Units My background has shown me how much teens and families are struggling, and the lives that kids are coming from has pushed them to seek out guns as a problem solving tool because they are faced with such detrimental life circumstances.
3. Reflection on Michael’s murder has led me to some conclusions that I would like feedback on.

A. Upstream from Michaels Murder:

The Probation Process: all 4 people involved in Michaels Shooting were on probation/recently off probation both as juveniles/adults

- a. How are probation/community service mandates determined: is it judge to judge? Or case by case? Or is there a guide – based on specific crimes then this decision about judgement should be given (like the sentencing grid)
- b. How much coaching/interventions are made during the probation process to help teen/adult move away from crime mindset – or is it just do this time on projects and hope they “learn a lesson”
- c. How much interventions are done to help the parents/guardians of the kids/teens involved to give them resources to help them guide their teens. Or when you know the home situation is broken what happens for those kids?
- d. Do you ever advise parents/guardians about their ability to take away their teens divers license - as it is provisional between the ages of 16-18 and a parent can revoke it at any time with a form downloaded from the DMV, and sent back in? Not sure how many parents are aware of this easy tool the have to use.
- e. Is there ever follow up for kids on probation to make sure they are not slipping back into the life of crime?

Access to Guns: I believe that multiple members of the crew of 4 in Michael’s case have had a known history with guns, and that makes this feel like this event was a forgone conclusion. The stats we have been quoted is that there are 11 guns for every resident of the city of St. Paul. That number is so scary and uncomfortably high!!

- a. If someone is on probation and they are involved with a gun/crime with a gun what happens?
- b. The notion that kids are illegally selling guns via snapchat while under the age of 18 and there is no legal means to charge them with gun trafficking – how do you deal with this?

- c. Safe Gun Storage: I believe that the gun used in Michaels murder was initially acquired from a relative's house where it was left out and it was just stolen and used with the mindset of 'Protection" while "car shopping". How do you as an office see the safe storage of guns and ammunition being an effective deterrent to crime?
 - d. Gun Buyback program in Ramsey county: If there are too many guns – can we take some guns out of the equation with a joint partnership between Ramsey County, City of St Paul, SPPD. Ramsey Co Sheriffs Dept to do a gun buy back program?
 - e. Ghost Guns – untraceable 3D printed guns. This is the next level of gun crime - How does this influence your decisions?
- B. Down Stream from the Crime happening – there are moments where this has all been sooo much to process. The whole speed of this case has made this a steep learning curve on how to navigate what is happening. Having 3 court cases to be ready for at any moment of time has been very challenging. The different components of legal issues has been a lot to take on, especially because Michael was in his 40's and did not have a will – so estate and probate were needed to settle his affairs.

Victim Services after a crime has happened:

- a. Have you all ever considered a care coordinator role to help family members navigate how to best access resources/make sense of what paperwork/details they may need to settle affairs/navigate a case?
- b. I know that the victim advocate role from the county is great for the legal side– but there are so many other entities to connect with and deal with. Sometimes you don't even know you are supposed do something because it is just not obvious.
- c. Is there a similar role to a victim advocate on the Defense side – or does that fully fall on the Defense attorney as well.
- d. Items taken in custody because of crime activities – most specifically cars. How do we change this for victims of crime. I fully understand why my car needs to be in evidence – but there should be some sort of way to support people when it comes to their mode of transportation/asset that is expensive and not able to access it.

Details of Michael's Case: May 6, 2023

4 people in the car at time of Michael's Murder: ALL "car shopping" and doing drugs all night

Driver TM (18 yr old): drove up to and away from our home, broke into my car, brought the gun along, hid the car, kept the gun. (ON PROBATION, PREVIOUS HISTORY WITH GUNS)

Shooter KS (17 yr old): his car was used, passenger that morning, shot Michael 3 times (back & chest), Hid the car, hid the events, tried to flee police, refused to talk with police once caught. (FINISHED PROBATION APRIL 2023, PREVIOUS VIOLENT HISTORY WITH GUNS, Pulled over by Police first week of May 2023)

Backseat Passenger (19 yr old): along for the ride in the back, did not get out at our home, did not participate in the crime or report the crime, was dropped off at a park. (On PROBATION, WILL NOT BE CHARGED IN THIS CASE BECAUSE HE IS CONSIDERED A WITNESS)

Backseat Passenger (22 yr old): along for the ride in the back, did not get out at our home, did not participate in the crime or report the crime, was dropped off at a park. (On PROBATION, WILL NOT BE CHARGED IN THIS CASE BECAUSE HE IS CONSIDERED A WITNESS)

Shooter KS – Waived Adult Certification, Plead guilty to Murder, 2nd Degree (intentional, not premeditated)

306
months
261 - 367

Rejected plea agreement for 272 months (22.5 years) – think that is too much time.
Agreed to Plea agreement was for 306 months (25.5 years) with the ability to ask for less time.
Zero crime history (column 0) and Highest Count Row on sentencing grid. Reminder: MN Sentencing guidelines shifted to overall less time and 25 years in prison, considered a life sentence. Additionally Automatic 15 yr parole plan means parole meeting begin at year 12.

Translates to

25.5 year
21.75 years - 30.58 years

Driver TM - Just started process of this case in Sept 2023. Next court date Nov 2, 2023

150
months
128 - 180

Likely that this case will have Plea. He is likely up for Murder in the 2nd degree unintentional (aiding and abetting) this is much less time for his sentence. He is also considered a Zero crime history because he turned 18 a month before Michael was murdered. So he is zero column and 2nd highest count on the rows. MN Laws in 2023 reduced the sentencing grid. But this is still an unknown outcome with this case.

Translates to

12.5 years
10.6 year – 15 years

What does this legal process look like for our family: Perspective based on my own son's ages.

11 & 15 – Victim's Sons ages at time of sentencing
16 & 20 – when parole discussions begin for TM begin.
18 & 22 – when TM likely out on parole
23 & 27 - when parole discussions begin for KS
26 & 30 – when KS likely out on parole based on 15 year Automatic parole

Biggest Areas of Concern: 1. Lack of community outreach to mentor and help youth have better outlets-- New SAP Foundational Grant to help with funding. 2. Lack of ability to have legal consequences/community mentorship for parents and teens. 3. Huge increase in access to guns and increase in violent crime in last 3 years 4. Sentencing shift focuses on the needs of criminals and less about the victims need for time to recover/rebuild.

To: Members of the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
From: Adam Sonnenfeld, Edina
Re: In Support of HF 4300 and HF 601
Date: 2/28/2024

Dear Chairs and Distinguished Members of the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,

I am a resident of Edina, Minnesota and I am writing to urge you to support HF 4300 and HF 601. These are common sense bills that will save lives and close glaring gaps in our state's gun safety legislation at a time when gun violence is rising at an alarming rate both state and nationwide.

HF 4300 requires safe storage of firearms in the home. As a parent of three young children, I know how curious kids are and that it is all too easy for children to access improperly stored firearms. I recently moved from Connecticut where a teenager accessed their father's improperly stored gun resulting in the death of another teen. This tragedy resulted in the passing of Ethan's Law, a safe storage bill. The bill received enthusiastic bipartisan support because legislators recognized that adults are responsible for making sure their guns cannot get into the hands of children. Furthermore, the majority of guns used in crimes are stolen. Requiring safe storage would make it more challenging for criminals to obtain firearms.

Finally, HF 601 requires the prompt notification of stolen or missing firearms. This is a commonsense measure to help law enforcement solve crimes and to prevent straw purchases of firearms and hold offenders accountable.

Together, these bills will go a long way in modernizing Minnesota's gun violence prevention legislation. I urge you to support them all and do your part in making Minnesota a safer community for all.

Sincerely,

Adam Sonnenfeld, Edina

2/28/2024

Minnesota State Legislature

Written Testimony for Gun Violence Prevention Legislation

Hello, my name is Bethany Olson (Edina, MN) and I am submitting this written testimony in strong support of the following gun violence prevention legislation: Secure Storage - HF 396 (Becker-Finn), SF916 (Gustafson) and Lost & Stolen Firearms - HF601 (Her), SF606 (Westlin).

I am grateful to the Minnesota legislature for passing legislation in the 2023 session to support Extreme Risk Protection Orders and close background check loopholes for purchases of firearms in Minnesota, and I urge legislators from across the political spectrum to support passage of legislation to require secure storage and the reporting of lost and stolen firearms.

We need look no further than earlier this month to understand the importance of continuing to pursue solutions to keep firearms away from children and those who have demonstrated that they are too dangerous to possess firearms. I am sure it weighs on all of us to hear of school shootings in communities throughout the United States, to hear of the violence at the Super Bowl parade in Kansas City, to think of the first responders slain in Burnsville and memorialized today. We can feel the heaviness and the fear from gun violence, but it's not just emotion that tells us we need to do more. The statistics paint an even more grim reality.

An average of 41 children and teens die from guns in Minnesota every year, and 55% of those gun deaths are death by suicide. Across the United States, 54% of gun owners do not lock all of their guns, and 4.6 million children live in households with at least 1 unlocked and loaded firearms. Think of the tragedy we can prevent by taking steps to require safe storage (and separate storage of ammunition) in Minnesota. The Journal of American Medical Association estimates that $\frac{1}{3}$ of youth unintentional deaths and youth deaths by suicide with a gun could be prevented if just half of US households with children switched from keeping unsecured firearms in the home to using secure storage. The majority of school shooters acquired the weapons used in their attacks from their own home or that of a relative, and the vast majority of children who live in a home with a firearm know the location of those firearms. Implementing safe storage standards in Minnesota has the potential to save countless lives.

We also know that the majority of guns recovered from crime scenes are stolen guns. Safe storage can help prevent gun thefts, but I also believe we must require gun owners to report when their firearms are lost or stolen. This will help law enforcement and will help prevent gun trafficking, as well as reducing violent crime committed with firearms.

Thank you for your consideration of these two gun violence prevention measures. I hope you will take seriously the impact of implementing just these two measures, and continue to work towards safer homes and communities in Minnesota.

Brady
840 First St. NE Ste. 400
Washington, DC 20002



Testimony of Ramya Swami, Manager, State Policy, Brady
Support for House File 4300 and 601
Before the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
February 28, 2024

Support for HF 4300: Safe Storage

HF 4300 requires gun owners to store their firearms unloaded with a locking device, or loaded or unloaded in a locked firearm storage unit.

As outlined above, the statistics regarding suicide in Minnesota are staggering. Each year 491 people in Minnesota die by firearm suicide.¹ When a person or a child is at risk for suicide, we want to create as much time and distance between them and the method as possible. While moments of crisis are extremely dangerous, they are often temporary. If a firearm is safely stored, it is less likely to be used during a moment of urgent — but temporary — distress.

The availability and effectiveness of firearms greatly increases the risk of a fatal outcome, should someone attempt suicide.² Putting barriers in place between a person thinking of suicide and their preferred method of suicide can delay or prevent a suicide attempt altogether. Storing firearms locked and unloaded, with ammunition stored separately, can thus be an effective measure to reduce the risk of suicide.³

Nationwide, almost 4.6 million minors live in homes with unsecured guns.⁴ A study published by the American Academy of Pediatrics in 2018 found that within a sample of parents who owned guns, only

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. *Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)* [online]. (2005) [cited 2023 Feb. 2]. Available at: www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars.

² Drexler, Madeline. "Guns and Suicide: The Hidden Toll." *Harvard Public Health*, https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/magazine/magazine_article/guns-suicide/.

³ Shenassa ED, Rogers ML, Spalding KL, Roberts MB. "Safer Storage of Firearms At Home and Risk of Suicide: A Study of Protective Factors in a Nationally Representative Sample," *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*. 2004; 58(10):841-848.

⁴ Azrael, D. et al., (2018) *Firearm Storage in Gun-Ownning Households with Children: Results of a 2015 National Survey*. *Journal of Urban Health* 95, 295-304. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11524-018-0261-7>

one third stored all household firearms locked and unloaded.⁵ Another study showed that over 70 percent of children reported knowing the storage location of the household firearm, and that 1 in 5 parents who reported that their child had never handled the household firearm were contradicted by their child's report.⁶ As a result, 70-90 percent of firearms used in unintentional shootings, school shootings and suicides by minors are acquired from home, or from the homes of friends or relatives.⁷ Keeping guns locked and unloaded was found to have a protective effect against unintentional shootings and suicide among youth, reducing the risk of death by 73 percent.⁸

Unintentional shootings that involve minors are preventable. HF 4300 mandates the safe storage of firearms, where all firearms are stored locked, unloaded, with ammunition stored separately, and is an effective strategy to reduce unintentional injury or death of a child.⁹ These are strategies directly in line with the values of gun owners who place protection of family above all other reasons to own firearms, and also inherently respect all individual's Constitutional rights.

Tragically, many school shootings are also facilitated by kids or teens having access to unsecured guns at home. A 2019 U.S. Department of Homeland Security analysis of targeted school violence shows that 76 percent of attackers who used firearms obtained the firearm from their parent's home or the home of another close relative.¹⁰ In half of those cases, the evidence indicated that the firearm was either readily accessible or not secured in a meaningful way.¹¹ Research published in 2020 investigating firearm-related deaths among children aged 0-14 found that over a 26-year time period, U.S. states with safe storage laws regulating the storage of firearms in households with minors had a 13 percent reduction in firearm fatalities in the specified age group when compared to states with no such regulations.¹²

Further, this proposed law does not infringe upon an individual's Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms in the home — rather, firearms ownership comes with a responsibility to ensure that lethal weapons are not readily accessible to minors who either cannot yet responsibly handle firearms themselves or individuals who are at risk of harming themselves or others. Securing firearms in the home is compatible with a firearm owner's ability to protect the home. There is a wide range of firearm storage options available on the market that are affordable and enable the owner of the gun to access it quickly if necessary. Research clearly shows that robust child access prevention and safe storage laws help protect children and reduce the risk of firearm suicide and unintentional shootings by kids and teens in homes across America.

⁵ Scott, J. et al., (February 2018). *Firearm Storage in Homes With Children With Self-Harm Risk Factors*. American Academy of Pediatrics, <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2018/02/19/peds.2017-2600.info>.

⁶ Salhi C. et al., (March 2021). *Parent and Adolescent Reports of Adolescent Access to Household Firearms in The United States*. (March 2021) JAMA Network Open; 4(3):e2108989. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33687444/>

⁷ Alathari, L. et al., (November 2019). *Protecting America's Schools A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence*. United States Secret Service. U.S. Department of Homeland Security United States. <https://www.secretservice.gov/data/protection/ntac/usss-analysis-of-targeted-scholl.violence.pdf>

⁸ Grossman, D. C. (2005). *Gun storage practices and risk of youth suicide and unintentional firearm injuries*. JAMA. 293(6)707-714, <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/200330>

⁹ Grossman, David C. "Gun Storage Practices and Risk of Youth Suicide and Unintentional Firearm Injuries." *JAMA* 293, no. 6 (2005): 707. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.293.6.707>.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² Azad, H. et al., (May 2020) *Child Access Prevention Firearm Laws and Firearm Fatalities Among Children Aged 0 to 14 Years, 1991-2016*. JAMA Pediatrics; 174(5):463-469. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32119063/>

Safe storage has a measurable impact on reducing the rate of suicide and in preventing unintentional shootings that result in injury or death. Laws around safe storage have been upheld by the courts nationwide and the research is conclusive: safe storage saves lives. **Brady urges the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee to pass HF 4300, which requires gun owners to store their firearms unloaded with a locking device and separately from its ammunition.**

Support for HF 601: Lost or Stolen Firearms

Lost and stolen guns help feed the underground gun market in the state of Minnesota and beyond. Nationwide, the FBI estimated that 1.8 million firearms were stolen from private individuals between 2012 and 2017,¹³ and a 2017 study concluded that approximately 380,000 firearms are stolen from private individuals annually.¹⁴ Between 2010 and 2016, a majority of the 23,000 stolen firearms recovered by police were connected with crimes - including more than 1,500 violent crimes.¹⁵ Despite this, the National Crime Victimization Survey revealed that, from 2011 to 2015, 23 percent of guns stolen from individuals went unreported to law enforcement.¹⁶

There is a clear crisis of lost and stolen firearms across the country that supplies the criminal gun market, but the lack of expeditious reporting further impedes criminal investigations as these firearms are notoriously difficult to trace. This directly interferes with law enforcement's ability to quickly identify suspects tied to serious gun crimes. As noted in a recent ATF report: "Those that steal firearms commit violent crimes with stolen guns, transfer stolen arms to others who commit crimes, and create an unregulated secondary market for firearms."¹⁷ In fact, the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the official trade association for the firearms industry, has also reported on the severity of firearm theft in the U.S. In 2017, Larry Keane, the Senior VP of the NSSF stated, "there are more guns stolen every year than there are violent crimes with firearms. Gun owners should be aware of the issue."¹⁸

Lost or stolen firearms are a major source fueling gun crimes within the state of Minnesota. Researchers at Everytown for Gun Safety analyzed FBI crime data across hundreds of small to large cities including 7 cities in Minnesota and found that in 2020, an estimated 77,000 guns were reported stolen in these cities alone.¹⁹

HF 601 will work to curb the dangerous consequences of lost and stolen firearms. Law enforcement has rightly identified that the sooner they are made aware of missing, lost, or stolen firearms, the higher the chance that they can recover those firearms and prevent them from being used in shootings. A research

¹³ Chelsea Parsons and Eugenio Weigend Vargas, *Gun Theft in the United States: A State-by-State Analysis*, Ctr. for Amer. Progress (Mar. 2020), available at

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/guns-crime/news/2020/03/04/481029/gun-theft-united-states-state-state-analysis/>.

¹⁴ David Hemenway, et. al, *Whose Guns Are Stolen: The Epidemiology of Gun Theft Victims*, 4 *Injury Epidemiology* 11 (Dec. 2017), available at www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5385318/.

¹⁵ Brian Freskos, *Missing pieces: Gun theft from legal gun owners is on the rise, quietly fueling violent crime across America*, The Trace (Nov. 20, 2017), available at <https://bit.ly/2izST1h>.

¹⁶ Chelsea Parsons and Eugenio Weigend Vargas, *Stolen Guns in America: A State-by-State Analysis*, Ctr. for Amer. Progress (July 2017) at Table 2, available at

www.americanprogress.org/issues/guns-crime/reports/2017/07/25/436533/stolen-guns-america/.

¹⁷ U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, *supra* at 2.

¹⁸ Freskos, *supra* at 4.

¹⁹ O'Toole MJ, Szkola J, Burd-Sharps S, *Gun Theft from Cars: The Largest Source of Stolen Guns*, Everytown for Gun Safety (May 9 2022), available at <https://everytownresearch.org/gun-thefts-from-cars-the-largest-source-of-stolen-guns/>

team from Johns Hopkins University also found that mandatory reporting of firearm theft or loss by private gun owners helped to prevent gun trafficking into neighboring states. States with strong reporting laws were 30 percent less likely to export crime guns across state lines.²⁰ The authors of this study noted “[these laws] are intended to increase private gun seller accountability and provide law enforcement with a tool to combat illegal straw purchases when the individuals involved present dubious claims of unreported gun theft. Having this measure of accountability significantly reduced interstate gun trafficking.”²¹

Brady strongly encourages the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee to pass HF 601. Strong and comprehensive laws that mandate gun owners to notify law enforcement officials when a firearm is lost or stolen, are key in reducing gun trafficking and straw purchasing. HF 601 will also work to aid law enforcement in recovering and returning lost and stolen guns to their rightful owners.

Conclusion

In a time when gun violence in the United States is steadily increasing, Minnesota has the opportunity to lead by example by enacting and implementing proactive, research-informed policy solutions that prevent gun violence, save lives, and spare entire communities from loss, trauma and cycles of violence. The legislation laid forth in this letter proposes universal background checks, expands extreme risk protection orders, mandates safe storage of firearms, and creates reporting requirements for lost and stolen firearms - all of which are tried and true measures that have been taken in other states to reduce gun violence.

For the reasons described above, Brady urges the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee to support the passage of House Files 4300 and 601.

Sincerely,

Ramya Swami
State Policy Manager, Brady

²⁰ Daniel W. Webster et.al, *Reducing Gun Violence in America: Informing Policy with Evidence and Analysis*, The Johns Hopkins University Press 118 (2013), available at https://jhupress.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/1421411113_updf.pdf.

²¹ *Id.*



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.

To Committee Chair Representative Moller and members of the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,

Please support HF 4300 and HF 601, for safe storage and reporting of lost and stolen guns.

My husband works in the HCMC Emergency Department, where victims of intentional and accidental gun violence are taken on nearly a daily basis. Our local media reports tragic stories of kids shooting and sometimes killing themselves and others with unsecured, loaded guns. Gun violence is out of control. We can and must do better.

I canvassed hundreds of voters in east metro suburbs last summer and fall, listening to their perspectives on these and other areas of gun safety legislation. I spoke with gun owners, non-gun owners, former gun-owners, gun collectors, Republicans, Democrats, independent/unaffiliated voters, military and law enforcement officers and their family members. Safe storage and reporting of lost and stolen guns were the most popular and widely supported gun safety measures that we discussed. People who started the conversation by saying, "I'm a strong 2nd amendment supporter" also supported these bills. Responsible gun owners already do these things. They felt, and I agree, that it's not too much to ask these basic practices of all gun owners.

I'm 64 years old. When I was a kid, the scariest thing we had to do at school was a fire drill – which wasn't scary at all. We all welcomed the chance to get up and out of the classroom, troop down the hall, and out into the recess yard. My heart breaks when I think of kids now doing active shooter drills, helping to barricade classroom doors, and asking my friends who are teachers, "would you take a bullet for me?" Pre-schoolers are given lollipops if they hide quietly in a closet during an active shooter drill that is called something else, so as not to scare the kids. It's obscene.

Safe storage and reporting are widely supported by significant majorities of voters, across party lines and among gun owners and non-gun owners alike. Please support both HF 4300 and HF 601 and help us start to reverse the craziness of gun violence in our country.

Thank you for your service and your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Deborah Zvosec
Minneapolis, MN

Testimony for committee meeting Thursday.

I'm a family doctor and mother of four five-and-under in Duluth. I'm a co-lead of our Moms Demand Action chapter and joined after Uvalde just feeling helpless in the face of violence confronting my young children and my patients. I support any legislation that keeps guns out of the hands of children and out of the hands of those who would harm children, including safe storage. Gun violence is the leading cause of death in pediatrics and I find that completely unacceptable. Thanks so much for any work to change this!

Elisabeth Gibbons, MD Duluth, MN

Hello,

I live in Duluth, MN and am represented by Rep. Kozlowski.

I am a general and hospital pediatrician with 14 years' experience, and a wife and Mom of 3 young children.

I am writing in support of firearm safety measures that are being considered this legislative season. It is my understanding there is a joint House committee meeting today to discuss this topic.

I have witnessed the horrific tragedy of gun violence in my training and work as a doctor, how it affects children and families, in the news, and am terrified by the rate of mass (including school) shootings in our country.

I urge you to support all measures to place restrictions on, and close loopholes for ownership, storage, use, and strengthen red flag laws.

We must do better and make our country safer for our families and especially for our children's generation. The evidence clearly states the more barriers to firearm access and use, and the fewer firearms in a community, the safer it is. I am happy to review references upon request.

Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Dr. Marit Knutson

To: Members of the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
From: Emily Bierman, Edina
Re: In Support of HF 4300 and HF 601 Date: 2/28/2024

Dear Chairman Moller and Distinguished Committee Members and Staff,

I am a resident of Edina and I am writing in support of HF 4300 and HF 601. Expanding safe storage requirements will save lives from multiple sources of gun violence: unintentional shootings, crime-related gun violence (facilitated by stolen guns), suicide, school and other mass shootings. It will send a clear message to irresponsible gun owners: lock up your firearms when they are not in your immediate control or be held accountable.

Every day, eight children are unintentionally shot or killed by a gun.¹ Securely stored firearms—whether loaded or not—would prevent most of these tragedies. It is simple; safe storage laws work and save lives, and they do not infringe on the rights of individuals to own a firearm. Studies have repeatedly shown that safe storage results in a reduction in the rates of self-inflicted and unintentional firearm injuries among children and teenagers by up to 85%.² Kids are curious and are developmentally prone to be risk-takers. As adults, we should be responsible for preventing unsupervised access to deadly weapons. Lax storage of firearms contributes to many forms of gun violence. More than 80% of child firearm suicides use a gun belonging to a family member.³ In 75% of cases, guns used in school shootings came from the shooter's home or that of a relative.⁴

On average, a gun is stolen in the U.S. every two minutes.⁵ Evidence suggests that most gun thefts are from owners who leave them unsecured in unlocked homes or cars and studies show that most guns recovered from crime scenes were stolen.⁶ Requiring gun owners to securely store their firearms will limit these thefts and their use in crimes. With that in mind, I encourage you to also support HF 601, which would require lost and stolen firearms be reported promptly to law enforcement. This would also be a critical step in preventing straw purchasing of firearms and limiting the means by which dangerous individuals may acquire weapons illegally.

Please do your part to reduce gun violence in our state and support HF 4300 and HF 601.

Respectfully,
Emily Bierman
Edina, Minnesota

¹ Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, "Key Statistics." <https://www.bradyunited.org/key-statistics>

² Grossman DC, Mueller BA, Riedy C, et al. Gun storage practices and risk of youth suicide and unintentional injuries. *JAMA*. 2005; 293(6): 707-714

³Everytown Research. "Firearm Suicide in the United States," Dec 28, 2021.
https://everytownresearch.org/report/firearm-suicide-in-the-united-states/#foot_note_40

⁴ Most Guns Used in School Shootings Come From Home, *Wall Street Journal*, Apr 5, 2018

⁵ Center for American Progress, "Stolen Guns in America," Jul 25, 2017.
<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/stolen-guns-america/>

⁶ Center for American Progress, "Stolen Guns in America," Jul 25, 2017.
<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/stolen-guns-america/>

February 28, 2024

Dear Chair Moller, Committee members, and staff,

Thank you for holding this hearing and soliciting written testimony from the community.

My name is Kathleen Anderson and I am a constituent (64B), clinical social worker, mother to three young children, and volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

I am writing today in support of HF601, creating a requirement that gun owners alert law enforcement if their firearms are ever lost and stolen. Lost and stolen firearms are often used in crimes or end up in the hands of those who mean to harm themselves or others.

I got involved with gun violence prevention because I am concerned about the safety and well-being on my children, but also because I have historically worked with children and families disproportionately impacted by gun violence: low income families, marginalized and justice-system involved youth, survivors of domestic/intimate partner violence, and those living with suicidal ideation.

From 2011 to 2021, background checks in Minnesota increased by 180 percent, indicating a significant spike in firearm purchasing. With more and more people purchasing firearms, it is paramount that Minnesota take steps to mitigate the risk of guns being stolen from their owners and used to fuel illegal activity. By requiring private gun owners to promptly report when a firearm is lost or stolen, Minnesota can strengthen law enforcement efforts to track down gun trafficking networks and identify straw purchasers. Additionally, requiring lost and stolen guns be reported to law enforcement deters illegal gun trafficking. Research has shown a 46 percent reduction in illicit gun activity in states that have enacted mandatory reporting requirements compared with states that have not.

My experience leads me to encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF601 in an effort to aid law enforcement in their quest to reduce illegal gun trafficking.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

With gratitude,

Kathleen Anderson, LGSW
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
Saint Paul, MN

February 28, 2024

Dear Chair Moller, Committee members, and staff,

Thank you for holding this hearing and soliciting written testimony from the community.

My name is Kathleen Anderson and I am a constituent (64B), clinical social worker, mother to three young children, and volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

I am writing today in support of HF4300, [strengthening requirements for secure storage of firearms and ammunition](#).

I got involved with gun violence prevention because I am concerned about the safety and well-being on my children, but also because I have historically worked with children and families disproportionately impacted by gun violence: low income families, marginalized and justice-system involved youth, survivors of domestic/intimate partner violence, and those living with suicidal ideation.

Because of my volunteer work educating the community on the importance of secure firearm storage, I know the stats and the potential impact of this evidence-based approach to gun violence prevention. Requiring gun owners to safely secure firearms can help reduce unintentional shootings by and of children, as well as prevent firearm suicide and gun theft. An estimated 54 percent of gun owners do not lock all of their guns. They fail to store them unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition, as experts recommend, thus presenting a clear and present danger to children and those experiencing a mental health crisis.

Most significantly in Minnesota (and unmet by our current Child Access Protection Law), is the role that unsecured guns play in suicides. Nearly three-quarters of gun deaths in Minnesota are suicides, a much higher average than nationally. The best practice for those living with suicidal ideation is to counsel them (and their loved ones) on reducing access to lethal means. Most forms of self-harm are rarely fatal (estimates are three to four percent) and most individuals go on to live full lives and not make a repeat attempt. That second chance matters. When someone attempts suicide with a firearm, it is fatal 90 percent of the time. There is no time to stop, reconsider, be interrupted, or be found and receive medical attention. A 2015 study found that states that require privately owned guns to be locked have 68 percent lower suicide rates, on average, than states that do not codify this measure into law.

Additionally, secure storage practices protect gun owners from gun theft. Ninety-five percent of all stolen firearms are taken from private homes and vehicles, so safe storage is an important factor in deterring gun theft and preventing guns from being used to facilitate future crime.

My experience leads me to emphasize that laws that require proper storage seek to encourage responsible behavior and ensure that those who fail to secure their firearms can be held accountable.

We all need gun owners in our society to be responsible gun owners. We all need to talk about secure storage and recognize its potential to save lives. This is a public safety measure.

I encourage members of the committee to vote **YES** on HF 4300.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

With gratitude,

Kathleen Anderson, LGSW
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
Saint Paul, MN

Dear Chairs and Distinguished Members of the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,

I am a resident of Northfield MN and I urge you to support HF4300 and HF601. There are far too many deaths of innocent children and others due to the lack of properly stored weapons and ammunition. Think of child suicide, school shootings, children playing with guns, not comprehending that this will end their lives or that of a dear sibling or friend. Severe psychic trauma in children affects them lifelong, and that has an impact on us all-even more so if we know we can prevent this from happening and choose to do nothing about it.

And, there are background checks for a reason. Straw purchases allow guns to land in the hands of those who by law should not be in possession of them.

These new laws will create, for those who choose to be irresponsible and/or criminal an incentive to do the right thing. I urge you to support these common sense laws.

Sincerely,

Melody Bierman, Northfield

To: House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
Ellen McDaniel - administrator

I am writing in strong support of HF 4300 and HF 601.

The Declaration of Independence invokes certain inalienable rights, among them are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The gun culture in the United States prevents enjoying these rights as the flood of available firearms create a climate of fear and intimidation. The recent murder of three first responders in Burnsville highlights the danger to all residents. Over this last weekend, armed juveniles committed a crime spree in the City of Minneapolis. These are just a few recent examples of unauthorized individuals using firearms in the commission of violent crimes.

When I was growing up, rifles and shotguns were common in my family and neighborhood, and we were taught to respect these hunting tools. Before we could get a hunting license, we had to take and pass a Hunters Safety course, which also taught us about the proper handling of guns, including keeping track of them, cleaning them, proper storage and transport.

Fanatical adherents of gun rights would have us believe that firearm ownership cannot be restricted by regulation. Many gun rights groups, such as the Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus are dedicated to stopping any and all new gun ownership regulations and overturning existing regulations and that owning a firearm has no personal responsibility. The firearm industry exerts undue influence over elected politicians and appointed judges.

Guns are devices designed to expel a projectile using pressure or explosive force. Guns can be used for hunting or for personal protection. The purpose of shooting a gun is to kill or maim the intended target. This awesome power requires the owner/shooter to accept personal responsibility for the weapon and the associated consequences of its use.

HF 4300 and HF 601 require owners of firearm to keep track of their guns and to safely store them away from unauthorized users, including convicted felons and children. Opponents of these regulations claim that these measures are unnecessary and infringe on the rights of law abiding citizens. Clearly, with the number of guns currently being used in criminal activities and not-so-random shootings, gun owners need to control access to and the use their guns.

Feb. 26, 2024
St. Paul

To: House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
Ellen McDaniel – administrator

Dear members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of HF 4300 and HF 601. These bills are necessary to mitigate the ongoing violence which impacts children and teens in Minnesota.

The data documenting gun violence are overwhelming. I believe the following are compelling:

- The CDC has reported that firearms are the leading cause of death of children ages 1-19 in the US
- A study reported in JAMA stated that states with secure storage measures have 78% lower risk of self-inflicted firearm injury and 85% lower risk of unintentional firearm injuries in children and teens
- In addition to death and injury due to firearms the economic cost of this violence is staggering, by one Everytown measure over \$500B annually!

Young people and students are demanding support for stricter gun laws.

These bills do not take away rights, in my view, but support reform that the majority of gun owners support. In fact, these bills will lead to improved safety and better perception of gun owners. Gun rights advocates and lobbyists offer *nothing* to address gun violence, only a stance against any gun safety measures; this sort of inaction is unacceptable. We cannot accept the “both-sides-ism” of positioning on this debate – the majority of Minnesotans want effective legislation to reduce the impact of gun violence.

Thanks for all you do to lead Minnesota to be an example of responsible gun ownership and improved public safety.

Regards,
Pete Steinhagen
St. Paul, MN

To Committee Chair Representative Moller and members of the Committee,

My name is Rachel Dick and I am a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. I am writing in support of HF 4300 and HF 601. The safe storage and lost & stolen firearms bills are important legislation that will make Minnesotan safer and reduce the risk of firearm violence, especially for children.

While there is plenty of national research showing broad bipartisan support for gun safety laws, I can also attest to the fact that many Minnesotans – Democrats, Republicans, and everyone in between – are in favor of these specific bills. I volunteered in the east metro suburbs this past fall, canvassing voters to ask their opinions on recent and upcoming gun legislation. We had in-depth conversations about their questions, concerns, and personal stories related to guns and I was fortunate to learn a lot from people with extensive hunting and military experience. Over 85% of the voters we talked to, which included a nearly even split between Democrats and Republicans, were in support of passing safe storage and mandatory reporting of lost or stolen firearms laws. Many people said, “Isn’t that a law already?”

Although many responsible gun owners already follow those practices, not everyone does, and those accidents that ensue can lead to tragic outcomes for children. Like many others, I was horrified by the news last fall that a two-year-old child was shot by his four-year-old brother who found an unsecured, loaded gun in their family’s car. Changing our laws to promote high standards of gun safety for all individuals with access to firearms is an important step towards reducing accidental deaths and making our state safer for everyone.

Thank you,

Rachel Dick
Minneapolis, MN