

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,

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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

