

Feb. 2, 2023
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 396, HF 14, HF 15, and HF 601. These bills are common sense gun safety reforms that will make all of us safer.

The data documenting gun violence are overwhelming. No other country has the excessive sheer number of guns, nor the excessive resulting violence and death. Given that, it is imperative that we take action to mitigate this death and violence with the legislation currently under your review.

To be clear, I support gun rights for those owners following appropriate registration, transfer, and storage of guns. I support hunters – our family farm, as part of a transaction with Pheasants Forever and the DNR, is now part of a WMA, available to all hunters to use and enjoy. These bills do not take away rights, in my view, but support reform that the majority of gun owners support. Those who criticize these bills often employ the arguments of a “slippery slope” fallacy; in fact, these bills will lead to improved safety and better perception of gun owners.

My wife and I have a young granddaughter, and we think often of the need to ensure her future safety.

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