



# MINNESOTA POLICE AND PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

525 Park Street, Suite 250 St. Paul, MN 55103-2145  
Phone: 651-291-1119 Website: [www.mppoa.com](http://www.mppoa.com)

January 25, 2023

To: Representative Jamie Becker-Finn

RE: Support of HF396 (Becker-Finn), Safe storage of firearms and ammunition required

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) is the largest association representing police and peace officers in the State of Minnesota.

## **MPPOA supports HF396, legislation that will require the safe storage of firearms and ammunition.**

A key part of responsible gun ownership is securing and storing guns while they are not in use. Here are a few reasons why:

- Kids are curious. Even if you have talked to them many times about gun safety, they can't truly understand how dangerous guns are. If they come across a loaded gun, they can accidentally hurt or kill themselves or someone else. If they find it, they may play with it.
- A gun in the house also can be used to hurt or kill someone when:
  - A child or teen finds the gun and accidentally pulls the trigger.
  - A depressed teen or adult feels suicidal and there is a gun readily available.
  - A family argument gets out of control.
  - A family member or friend is mistaken for an intruder.

Safe storage, including using gun locks, can prevent tragedies like these and gun owners have a responsibility to make certain guns are stored safely.

For the reasons above, MPPOA supports HF396.

Sincerely,

Brian Peters  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association



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