



February 23, 2026

Chair Freiberg and Chair Quam  
Elections and Government Operations Committee  
G-23 State Capitol  
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

**via electronic delivery**

Dear Chairs Freiberg and Quam:

I am writing you today to ask you to pass HF 3351 and convey Saint Paul's strong support for this local control legislation. Across Minnesota, our cities are on the front lines of a public health crisis that has gone on for far too long. Every day, our residents—and far too often, our children—face the devastating consequences of gun violence. In every community, we see this same heartbreaking pattern: families shattered, neighborhoods disrupted, and futures cut short.

This legislation repeals the pre-emption clause and allows local governments to use our local control and decision-making to enact common-sense policies that work for our own cities. Mayors and city council members have come before you for years, asking for our state leaders to do more to prevent gun violence. I know many stand united in demanding that our state leaders move beyond words to deliver urgent action to stop gun violence.

As a new mayor, I want to do everything I can to promote responsible gun ownership, safe storage, get guns off the street and disrupt cycles of violence. The city works with our community and county partners to invest in prevention and intervention, strengthening partnerships between law enforcement and communities, and supporting families who have lost loved ones. We know the scale of this crisis demands action at every level of government.

If state leaders aren't willing to come together to pass gun safety laws for all of Minnesota, then I respectfully request that you pass HF 3351, to enable us to keep our communities safe by acting at the local level.

Sincerely,

Kaohly Her  
Mayor  
City of Saint Paul

February 24, 2026

Chair Freiberg and Chair Quam  
Elections and Government Operations Committee  
G-23 State Capitol  
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

**Re: HF 3551 - State preemption of local units of government regulating firearms repealed**

Dear Members of the Elections and Government Operations Committee:

I am writing in support of HF 3351 and to convey Minneapolis' support for this local control legislation.

In cities we see the consequences of gun violence up close. Our first responders provide life-saving care to victims while carrying the trauma of what they witness. Families are shattered when firearms fall into the wrong hands or aren't stored safely. Children's lives are altered in an instant when they have to hide under desks or see their teachers run in fear. These aren't abstract policy debates for us; they are lived realities in our communities.

The tragic loss of life at Annunciation Church and School in Minneapolis last year is a glaring example of the horrific impact assault weapons have on our communities. Sadly, that shooting could have occurred anywhere in our state.

The City of Minneapolis supports a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines at the state and federal levels. However, in the absence of action at other levels of government, cities should be able to enact policies that make sense for their residents. This legislation repeals the pre-emption clause and allows local governments to use our local control and decision-making to enact common-sense policies that work for our own cities.

I respectfully request your support of HF 3351. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Truly,



Jacob Frey  
Mayor



Wednesday, February 25th, 2026

Minnesota House of Representatives Elections Committee

Co-Chair Freiberg, Co-Chair Quam, and members of the House Elections Committee,

I write today on behalf of GIFFORDS in strong support of HF3351, a bill to enable local units of government to implement their own firearm regulations to protect their communities. GIFFORDS is a leader in the movement to end gun violence in America. Led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, our team brings decades of political, legal, and policy expertise to the fight for gun safety.

Local laws address the unique circumstances and challenges that a specific community faces, including challenges related to gun violence. When a higher government authority takes the ability to regulate laws away from local units of government, a gap is created between those that pass laws and those that experience the consequences of them.

For most of our nation's history, state and local governments have had the ability to pass laws related to firearm regulation in order to protect public safety. Recently, however, the gun lobby has sought to carve out a unique exception to this tradition of local authority in states across the country. In Minnesota, the legislature broadly has the authority to regulate firearms and preempt local regulation. Local units of government, including the city of St. Paul in 2025, have attempted to pass their own ordinances related to firearms, including the banning of assault weapons, high capacity magazines, ghost guns, and binary triggers, but have been unable to implement them because of existing state-level preemption laws.

St. Paul is not alone. There are currently over a dozen cities across Minnesota that have made similar efforts around firearms and that are urging the legislature to lift the state's preemption laws so local units can pass the policies that are best for their own communities. Cities across the state want to take direct action to combat gun violence, and we are confident that passing this bill into law will save lives and promote local control. We urge this committee to support this critical piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Spencer Myers  
State and Local Policy Attorney, GIFFORDS Law Center

Honorable Chairs, and Members of the Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee,

My name is Connor Daine and I am a resident of Minnesota and House District 41A.

I am writing to you today to oppose HF3351 in its entirety and in its intent.

This bill is not just a waste of ink, but a malicious and capricious misuse of it, and public endangerment waiting to happen.

Though presumption is not a defense, not everyone can be a lawyer, so a level of presumption of understanding of norms, customs, and laws is necessary for any person to function openly and freely in society.

This bill stands in stark contrast to that, solely and only because a good and well intentioned person wants to own a firearm.

This bill would create a patchwork of laws across the state of Minnesota that will be impossible to navigate, with serious criminal penalties, it would essentially revoke the uniformity of the issuance of permits to carry, the understanding of how a citizen can carry a firearm to protect themselves and still comply with the law, and revoke a universal state standard even for ammunition.

Frankly speaking, this is Jim Crow for gun owners, you don't know which town next down the road is going to send you to prison for something that was lawful in the prior town over, and as evidenced by already uneven enforcement of laws regarding firearms in major Minnesota cities, a law like this can \*only\* be used for the abuse of the gun owning public.

No amendments can fix this bill's entirely faulty premise. The state should maintain its legal standard for the safety and understanding of all Minnesotans at large.

I urge you to vote no on this bill.

- Connor Daine



**MORIAH DAY**

Director, Government Relations - State Affairs

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400 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 475, Washington, D.C. 20001

February 24, 2026

**Re: NSSF Opposition to HF 3351; Elimination of Local Firearm Preemption**

Honorable Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) is the trade association for the firearms, ammunition, hunting and recreational shooting sports industry. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HF 3351.

HF 3351 proposes to eliminate Minnesota's longstanding firearm preemption framework, which ensures that firearm regulations are consistent statewide. Doing so would result in a patchwork of conflicting local ordinances, create legal confusion, cause economic harm, and introduce additional compliance challenges for your constituents.

This isn't just conjecture. As you are no doubt aware, some local governments have already made it clear that they intend to severely limit the ability of individuals living in or visiting their cities to exercise their right to keep and bear many of the most popular firearms in America – firearms protected under the Second Amendment.

Minnesota's firearm and outdoor industry is made up of many small and mid-sized businesses — local retailers, sporting goods stores, and family-owned companies. The firearm industry is already heavily regulated under federal and state law. And while a patchwork of local regulations would affect the entire industry, it would disproportionately impact small businesses.

Uncertainty also discourages investment. Manufacturers and distributors evaluating where to expand facilities or establish operations put a premium on a stable regulatory system. Eliminating preemption will signal additional unpredictability and risk, which will absolutely push future investment — and jobs — away from Minnesota and towards surrounding states.

Handling firearm issues at the state level as Minnesota has done in the past allows policies to be debated by elected representatives more prepared to weigh constitutional considerations, public safety information, and the impact on the state's economy as a whole. There is no benefit to allowing local ordinances to layer additional restrictions on Minnesotans' Second Amendment freedoms or the industry that makes their exercise possible.

Finally, criminal activity often crosses city boundaries. Eliminating preemption would do nothing to deter those already intent on violating state and federal law. Instead, it would impact law-abiding firearm owners and businesses that consistently comply with the law.

Effective public safety policy focuses on targeting criminal behavior rather than law-abiding citizens and legitimate businesses.

HF 3351 would replace the clarity of preemption with confusion, consistency with fragmentation, and stability with uncertainty. Please oppose HF 3351.

Sincerely,  
Moriah Day



February 25, 2026

Members of the Minnesota House Elections Committee

Minnesota State Capitol, Room G23  
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

On behalf of Protect Minnesota, we write to express our strong support for HF 3351, the bill to repeal firearm preemption and restore local authority to regulate firearms within municipal boundaries.

For decades, Minnesota's preemption statute has prevented cities and counties from responding to the specific public safety needs of their communities. Local leaders are closest to the people they serve. They understand the unique challenges facing their neighborhoods and should have the flexibility to enact evidence-informed policies tailored to those realities. HF 3351 restores the principle of local control and democratic responsiveness without mandating a one-size-fits-all approach statewide.

Communities across Minnesota are asking for tools that allow them to address gun violence proactively. Repealing preemption empowers municipalities to innovate, pilot solutions, and respond swiftly to emerging threats while remaining accountable to their residents. This legislation strengthens—not weakens—public safety by ensuring that decisions about local safety measures can be made locally.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support HF 3351 and advance this important step toward community-centered public safety policy.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Maggiy Emery, Executive Director  
Protect Minnesota



February 25, 2026

Dear Members of the Elections Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), I write in strong support of HF 3351 to repeal state preemption of local municipalities regulating firearms.

According to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), more than 500 Minnesotans die by firearms each year, with the number increasing annually. Physicians see firsthand the physical and emotional toll firearm injuries inflict on patients of all ages.

In recent years, the Minnesota Legislature has taken critical steps to reduce firearm-related harm, including expanded background checks and extreme risk protection orders. These policies that will lower the rates of death and injury by firearm. However, no single statewide policy can address the specific circumstances faced by every community in Minnesota.

HF 3351 would allow local governments to adopt firearm safety regulations that are more protective than state law when appropriate. Local officials understand the public safety challenges in their communities and should have the authority to respond. Removing state preemption will allow municipalities to implement solutions that align with local needs while remaining consistent with state law.

Firearm violence is a preventable public health crisis. Empowering local communities to act, in partnership with the state, will strengthen Minnesota's overall approach to prevention and save lives. On behalf of Minnesota's physicians, I urge you to support HF 3351 and restore local authority to enact firearm safety protections.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Lisa Mattson, MD  
President, Minnesota Medical Association

Dear Chair and Members,

I am writing in support of HF 3351.

As a county commissioner, I strongly believe that decisions impacting public safety are best made at the level of government closest to the people. Counties and cities face different challenges, demographics, and public safety realities. Allowing local governments the authority to adopt firearm policies that reflect their specific community needs is a matter of local control, responsiveness, and accountability.

Statewide uniformity has value, but it should not prevent communities from addressing clearly identified local concerns. This bill restores an appropriate balance by giving locally elected officials the ability to respond thoughtfully and transparently to the residents they serve.

Secondarily, as a 7–12 social studies teacher, I teach my students about civic engagement, representative government, and the importance of local decision-making. HF 3351 reinforces those principles in practice. It affirms that government works best when it empowers communities rather than restricting them.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,  
Joe Gould  
Beltrami County Commissioner  
District 2  
7–12 Social Studies Teacher  
Cass Lake-Bena Area Learning Center