

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

May 1, 2023

Senator Ron Latz
95 University Avenue W
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Kelly Moller
509 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Latz and Moller:

I am writing to you regarding Senate File 2909 (SF 2909) and the National Rifle Association's (NRA) position on this piece of legislation. I would like to express our strong opposition to SF 2909. The NRA has a number of concerns regarding some of the policies set forth in the bill. The NRA believes that no one should have unreasonable burdens placed on them to own or possess a firearm.

SF 2909 sets up new ways law enforcement can deny a transferee permit without due process which denial can potentially be indefinite. It also makes it difficult to loan a firearm to many types of relatives and friends. Minnesota has a strong tradition of hunting and it is common to introduce people into the sport by loaning firearms for hunting purposes. SF 2909 requires an onerous process before one could loan such a firearm for that purpose. SF 2909 also adds a requirement for recording serial numbers and other firearms identification information upon each transfer. This sets up a form of government firearm registration. Additionally it sets up unreasonable requirements for retention of paperwork and unreasonable criminal penalties for violations.

SF 2909 allows for the confiscation of firearms before a respondent even has an opportunity to be heard by a judge. The bill allows for low standards of proof for the seizure of firearms and seizure can be based on uncorroborated hearsay information. SF 2909 only confiscates firearms and no other items that an individual could use to inflict harm, if in fact they truly were a danger to themselves or others. Moreover, there is nothing in the bill about the respondent getting mental health treatment or even evaluated by a mental health professional. Existing civil commitment procedures are sufficient to address dangerous people. The language does not allow transferring firearms to a friend or relative as allowed in other chapters of Minnesota statutes. This bill will lead to the seizure of firearms with no clear path on their return.

Sincerely,

Brian Gosch, Minnesota State Director