

HF 4300 Safe Storage Bill

To: Rep, Jamie Becker-Finn

CC: ellen.mcdaniel@house.mn.gov, contact@gunowners.mn

From: Andrew Nieuwsma, Burnsville

Dear Members of the House,

I write today in opposition of HF 4300. As a responsible firearms owner, I have taken all due diligence to ensure that no firearm falls into the hands of any unauthorized user. This is in keeping with my ethical and moral responsibility, as well as the current MN Statute 609.666 Sub. 2, "A person is guilty of a gross misdemeanor who negligently stores or leaves a loaded firearm in a location where the person knows, or reasonably should know, that a child is likely to gain access, unless reasonable action is taken to secure the firearm against access by the child."

However, I believe that HF 4300 goes too far and unnecessarily burdens law-abiding gun owners. The current law appropriately recognizes that responsible firearm storage practices can vary depending on individual circumstances. For example, a single woman living alone should not be required to use additional locked storage devices within her own dwelling, which is already legally protected and can be secured against unauthorized access.

Growing up in a rural community myself, I understand the importance of firearm education and safety from a young age. As a youth, some of my fondest memories are being 16, going to my friends farm, and with permission he and I (both minors, and without supervision of an adult), using rifles and shotguns to target shoot. Beyond being a legally protected and enumerated right in our constitution, firearms are an important fixture in the landscape of America.

Furthermore, I believe that responsible youths, particularly those aged 14 and older who have completed gun safety courses, should be granted the legal right to access firearms under parental supervision and consent. This structured approach ensures that young individuals are educated about firearm safety and responsible usage, with both the youths and their guardians being held accountable for their actions.

In conclusion, I urge you not to pass HF 4300. Instead, let us focus on promoting responsible firearm ownership through education, community engagement, and sensible legislation that respects the rights of law-abiding citizens while prioritizing public safety.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important matter.

Best regards,
Mr. Andrew Nieuwsma
Burnsville, MN