

February 2, 2023  
Ninah Divine  
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Dear Representative Kelly Moller and members of the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,

My name is Ninah Divine and I am from Minneapolis. I am a family medicine doctor in north Minneapolis and I support strengthening our gun laws through HF 396, 14, 15 and 601. This is because of my experience caring for victims of gun violence. These experiences range from teenagers with spinal injuries to toddlers with gunshot wounds to the legs and abdomen. I have cared for them immediately after their injuries trying to stop their bleeding and tend to broken bones. I will never forget trying to console a small child during the excruciatingly painful process of having his tourniquet removed and his bullet holes examined. It was sad and humbling watching another child try to learn to walk again with a tiny walker. I have cared for gun violence victims years later as they struggle with chronic pain, post-traumatic stress disorder, and mobility issues. I remember the frustration of a mother and son bringing them to tears as they tried to get a proper fitting wheelchair so he could attend activities outside of the house. The immediate and lasting toll of these traumas are horrifying. This suffering can be prevented with regulations on who can access firearms through background checks and safe storage. I urge you to vote in favor of HF 396, 14, 15 and 601.

Thank you,

Ninah Divine, MD