

Citizen Statement on HF 4300 "Safe Storage Bill"

To Whom it May Concern:

Firstly, I wish to applaud the removal of the requirement to store a firearm in an unloaded state. The act of constantly loading and unloading a firearm is in fact one of the most dangerous part manipulating a firearm. While I can appreciate the sentiment of wanting to make things safer, I can only commend the realization that the unintended consequences may be more dangerous.

The new version, however, takes aim at very typical and safe firearm handling and seeks to criminalize it. Specifically, the "Access to firearms" subdivision of the bill is way too broad. A firearm may not be in "direct physical control" but still be in a perfectly safe environment. For example, at a range there may be a reason to not be in "direct physical control" to consult with, or notify a Range Safety Officer about a safety issue or otherwise urgent issue that would put one at odds with the bill as described. I presume you are not seeking to criminalize such a situation, but the bill as written does not allow for nuance. It states "Direct physical control".

As written this is too broad of a brush that will similarly have unintended consequences that I would urge the committee to explore and amend the language to apply to the specific situations that are intended when you use the phrase "direct physical control". I do not support this bill in its current form.

Regards,

Michael Li

Minnesota Resident