

Chair Nash, Chair Klevorn, and Committee Members,

My name is Dawn Tuveson, and I am writing today to urge the committee to support HF 3357, a bill that prohibits the possession of dangerous weapons in Minnesota's capitol complex and state buildings, with specific exceptions for law enforcement and security personnel.

In 2012, I was deeply saddened by the Sandy Hook massacre of twenty 1st graders and six educators. I'm a mother of a 1st grade teacher, and in 2012 I became a grandmother as well. The fear of losing my daughter or granddaughter to gun violence in their elementary classrooms is what led me to get involved with Moms Demand Action and Take Action MN. I wanted to do whatever I could to prevent another tragedy from happening again.

I learned about a rally at the Capitol during the 2013 session, so I joined a group of concerned parents in the Moms Demand Action group at this event. When we arrived at the Capitol it was packed. Hundreds of gun manufacturer reps and 2nd Amendment folks were there, and it seemed nearly all of them were openly carrying guns. Many of them were also aggressively barreling down halls intimidating people as they passed by.

What I thought would be a day of peaceful protest and advocacy at our state capitol turned out to be an absolutely terrifying experience. Thirteen years later, I honestly cannot think of a time in my life I have been more afraid for my own safety and everyone around me...and it's concerning that this experience took place as at our state Capitol. This building should be a safe place where Minnesotans of all ages, backgrounds, and beliefs can gather and participate in democracy. The presence of guns takes that sense of safety away.

We all know the Sandy Hook tragedy wasn't an isolated incident. I can't even count the number of gun related deaths that have happened since. Even just recently in our state, it's clear that guns are a big problem. The bottom line is... the capitol building should be a safe place for all who work here and visit. Weapons of all kinds have no place in our MN state capitol building and grounds.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF 3357. Thank you for considering this testimony and this urgent legislation.

Dawn Tuveson

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