

To: Members of the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
From: Adam Sonnenfeld, Edina
Re: In Support of HF 396; HF 14; HF 15; HF 601
Date: 2/3/2023

Dear Chairs and Distinguished Members of the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,

I am a resident of Edina, Minnesota and I am writing to urge you to support HF 396, HF 14, HF 15, and HF 601. These are common sense bills that will save lives and close glaring gaps in our state's gun safety legislation at a time when gun violence is rising at an alarming rate both state and nationwide.

HF 15 would provide Minnesotans with an ERPO law that many states already use to great effect. These orders are temporary, have robust due process protections, and benefit everyone in the community. Furthermore, these laws are popular and have received bipartisan support on the federal level. It is time for Minnesota to catch up to other states trying to curb gun violence.

HF 14 closes loopholes that allow for private sales of firearms without background checks. Background checks are necessary to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals. These laws are wildly popular. Every year background checks keep guns out of the hands of dangerous felons, the seriously mentally ill, and domestic abusers. Unfortunately, as Minnesota law currently stands, these individuals would have no problem purchasing a gun through a private transfer.

HF 396 requires safe storage of firearms in the home. As a parent of three young children, I know how curious kids are and that it is all too easy for children to access improperly stored firearms. I recently moved from Connecticut where a teenager accessed their father's improperly stored gun resulting in the death of another teen. This tragedy resulted in the passing of Ethan's Law, a safe storage bill. The bill received enthusiastic bipartisan support because legislators recognized that adults are responsible for making sure their guns cannot get into the hands of children. Furthermore, the majority of guns used in crimes are stolen. Requiring safe storage would make it more challenging for criminals to obtain firearms (especially when coupled with HF 14).

Finally, HF 601 requires the prompt notification of stolen or missing firearms. This is a commonsense measure to help law enforcement solve crimes.

Together, these four bills will go a long way in modernizing Minnesota's gun violence prevention legislation. I urge you to support them all and do your part in making Minnesota a safer community for all.

Sincerely,

Adam Sonnenfeld, Edina