



March 12th, 2024

Re: HF3672 (Pinto)

Members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee:

The Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus, the trusted voice of Minnesota's gun owners to defend and restore the right to keep and bear arms, opposes House File HF3672.

This proposed legislation presents considerable challenges for law-abiding gun owners who rely on their right to self-defense and have a reasonable expectation to anticipate what conduct is expected of them. The bill's implications are at odds with current practices and the practicalities of responsible firearm ownership.

- **Statewide Permit to Carry System:** Minnesota currently operates under a statewide Permit to Carry system, established to provide uniform standards for individuals exercising their right to carry firearms. This system ensures that permit holders **can confidently navigate the state, understanding their rights and obligations without facing unexpected restrictions in different local jurisdictions.**
 - The proposed bill undermines this clarity, exposing permit holders to a complex mosaic of local ordinances, potentially leading to inadvertent legal violations as they travel from one municipality to another.
 - Such fragmentation in regulation could deter individuals from exercising their right to carry, impacting their ability to defend themselves and their families, particularly in areas where they may face differing restrictions on carry rights.
- **Uniform Standards for Public Safety:** Allowing localities to set their own firearm restrictions disrupts the uniformity of gun laws in Minnesota, leading to confusion for gun owners and law enforcement, and undermining statewide efforts in promoting responsible gun ownership and safety.
- **Implications for Legal Recourse:** Removing preemption will cause litigation over local firearm ordinances, straining the legal system with disputes and resulting in inconsistent court rulings that complicate gun ownership in Minnesota.

For these reasons, among many others, we urge you to oppose this bill.

On behalf of our members,

A blue ink signature of Bryan Strawser, written in a cursive style.

Bryan Strawser
Chair

A black ink signature of Robert T. Doar, written in a cursive style.

Robert T. Doar
Senior Vice President, Government Relations



March 12th, 2024

Re: HF2828 (Hussein)

Members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee:

The Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus, the trusted voice of Minnesota's gun owners to defend and restore the right to keep and bear arms, opposes House File HF2828.

While we share the common goal of ensuring public safety, the implications of this bill suggest it may inadvertently compromise, rather than enhance, the security of law-abiding citizens and the broader community.

Firstly, the legislation overlooks the considerable evidence indicating that permit to carry holders are notably more law-abiding than the general public, as substantiated by the latest Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension report. These individuals have undergone thorough vetting processes, demonstrating their commitment to legal and responsible conduct, distinguishing these peaceable citizens and those who pose genuine threats to public safety.

The proposed restrictions would not only disarm these peaceable citizens during their journey from home or vehicle to a government building but also **escalate the risk associated with leaving firearms unattended in vehicles**. This aspect of the bill is particularly concerning, as it inadvertently promotes a scenario that is a known primary source of stolen guns subsequently trafficked to criminals. The increase in the number of unattended firearms in vehicles, resulting from this bill, could thereby enhance the very problem it seeks to mitigate.

It is counterproductive to enact a policy that not only compromises the safety of responsible citizens but also facilitates the very criminal activities we all strive to prevent.

In light of these considerations, we respectfully urge a reevaluation of the proposed legislation. Efforts should be directed towards formulating policies that genuinely enhance public safety without infringing upon the rights and safety of peaceable citizens.

On behalf of our members,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bryan Strawser".

Bryan Strawser
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert T. Doar".

Robert T. Doar
Senior Vice President, Government Relations