



The Kid Experts™

February 3, 2023
House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUPPORTING HF396, HF14, HF15 and HF601 FROM DR. MARC GORELICK, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AT CHILDREN'S MINNESOTA

Chair Moller and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony to express Children's Minnesota's support for HF 396, HF14, HF15 and HF601, policies that would make important strides in protecting Minnesota children from gun violence.

In 2020, for the first time, firearm-related injury became the [number one cause of death](#) for children and teens in the United States. Children are shot at home, at school, in their neighborhoods. Every single day of the week, [a gun kills a child age 12 or younger](#). This shocking statistic is more than a number. It is an unacceptable reality and something *must* be done. Right now, Minnesota has an opportunity to lead the way by passing legislation that would protect our kids.

I spent nearly 25 years as a pediatric emergency medicine physician and now lead the largest pediatric healthcare system in the state. My colleagues and I serve kids from across Minnesota and the surrounding region. I have seen first-hand the devastating effects of gun violence on children and their families.

I have seen shattered bodies like these:

- A teenage boy bleeding to death after he was shot by a friend following an argument over a phone, his limbs swollen grotesquely from the fluid pumped into his body in a desperate attempt to keep up with the blood pouring from the wounds in his chest and belly, his color fading, and the bleeding eventually stopping when his heart stopped
- A 7-year-old girl with pieces of her shattered femur sticking through her skin after a stray bullet went through her leg while she was riding her bike
- A 13-year-old girl whose face was all but destroyed when she tried to take her own life with her father's shotgun, one eye gone and the other severely damaged, crying for her parents through the half of her mouth that remained

Thank you, Representatives Becker-Finn, Pinto, Frazier and Her for crafting legislation that reflects the urgency of this moment and aligns with policies that the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) has long been advocating.

These bills will protect children in our state. These bills will save lives.

Dr. Marc Gorelick
President and Chief Executive Officer
Children's Minnesota