Minnesota House of Representatives Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee Chair: Representative Kelly Moller

## HF 3672

Tuesday March 12, 2024 at 10:30 AM State Office Building, Room 200

## **IN SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Moller and members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,

I am writing in support of HF 3672, which will repeal state preemption of local governments' ability to regulate firearms. Residents of all municipalities want to feel safe in their communities and expect their local governments to do everything possible to ensure that safety. State preemption of local units of governments' regulation of firearms makes it impossible for local governments to fulfill their duty to keep their citizens safe from gun violence. It blocks the ability of local governments to respond to the particular needs and demands of their residents, and makes it impossible to adopt locally-tailored solutions to gun violence in different communities. Local governments are well positioned to understand the health and safety needs of their residents. Handicapping them from doing everything possible to decrease gun violence in their communities defies common sense and can have deadly consequences. In the face of our current epidemic of gun violence, it is time to repeal state preemption and allow local governments to contribute all they can to solving this crisis.

Thank you for working toward safer and healthier communities for all Minnesotans,

Emily Benzie, MD Family Physician St. Paul, MN