

February 28, 2024

Dear Chair Moller, Committee members, and staff,

Thank you for holding this hearing and soliciting written testimony from the community.

My name is Kathleen Anderson and I am a constituent (64B), clinical social worker, mother to three young children, and volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

I am writing today in support of HF601, creating a requirement that gun owners alert law enforcement if their firearms are ever lost and stolen. Lost and stolen firearms are often used in crimes or end up in the hands of those who mean to harm themselves or others.

I got involved with gun violence prevention because I am concerned about the safety and well-being on my children, but also because I have historically worked with children and families disproportionately impacted by gun violence: low income families, marginalized and justice-system involved youth, survivors of domestic/intimate partner violence, and those living with suicidal ideation.

From 2011 to 2021, background checks in Minnesota increased by 180 percent, indicating a significant spike in firearm purchasing. With more and more people purchasing firearms, it is paramount that Minnesota take steps to mitigate the risk of guns being stolen from their owners and used to fuel illegal activity. By requiring private gun owners to promptly report when a firearm is lost or stolen, Minnesota can strengthen law enforcement efforts to track down gun trafficking networks and identify straw purchasers. Additionally, requiring lost and stolen guns be reported to law enforcement deters illegal gun trafficking. Research has shown a 46 percent reduction in illicit gun activity in states that have enacted mandatory reporting requirements compared with states that have not.

My experience leads me to encourage members of the committee to vote YES on HF601 in an effort to aid law enforcement in their quest to reduce illegal gun trafficking.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

With gratitude,

Kathleen Anderson, LGSW
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
Saint Paul, MN