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Bill HF 4300 as well as HF 601, are both flawed in one of two core ways, they place additional false responsibility for others actions on peaceable firearms owners. They do this by creating additional steps that harm that individual's ability to defend themselves in the event of serious threat, or punish them for the crimes of another.

This affects every single firearms owner that I know. It creates further hoops to make ownership more difficult and fearful for both friends who want a firearm to defend themselves, and for those I know who just want one for sport. Creating new blanket punishments will not stop anyone who doesn't care about firearm safety, it will only hurt peaceable people who want to responsibly utilize their rights.

HF 4300 does not answer the issue of others obtaining firearms who should not, while putting firearms owners lives in danger. First, children who obtain firearms is not a sign of lack of safe storage, but a sign of a lack of safety training. Millions of parents teach their children how to safely use a firearm or the importance of leaving them be, without issue. As with anything, if a kid knows it's there, then they can get to it, punishing parents who are safe with their firearms but don't meet HF 4300, will not stop anything, other than punish peaceable people. Second, the innumerable circumstances where a firearm may be outside of an individual's direct physical control and yet still be safe makes this bill horrid.

Just one example comes from my personal experience, doing trap shooting in high school. I was taught safety through a course, and from my father. After a competition I would return home, and safely clear his firearm, disassemble, and clean, without my parents present. This bill would punish my parents, and innumerable others, for teaching me gun safety, and responsibility.

HF 601 is terrible, not only for firearms, but because it changes where responsibility lies for crimes period. When a firearm is stolen, the owner has had a crime committed to them. To then punish them for the crime of another is absurd, and for the life of me I can't understand how this is even being discussed.

When it comes down to why these are simply bad bills, the basic answer is this, neither will answer the problems we have, nor will they punish the right people, they will in fact do the opposite, punishing peaceable people, who, meeting the standards demanded of responsible gun ownership still fall short of ineffective laws.

On a final note, bills like this are the reason the majority of my friends and family who wish to start sport shooting, or have a gun for self defense, but have not done so yet. They all share a common fear. That is a fear, not of doing anything wrong or unsafe, but that in the milieu of gun

regulations, they may be put in the crosshairs of ineffective laws that do more to help criminals than themselves. They fear exercising their individual God given rights because of bills like this, rather than reasonable apprehension.

Please consider what peaceable gun owners say about these bills, and organizations like MN Gun Caucus. These will only do harm, not solve our real problems.

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