



MINNESOTA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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March 22, 2023

Members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee:

The Minnesota Sheriffs' Association (MSA) is committed to keeping our residents and law enforcement officers safe from the threat of gun violence. At the same time, we also value, uphold and promote the rights of responsible gun owners to lawfully possess firearms, to protect themselves and their families.

The Minnesota Sheriffs' Association supports Senate File 1116. We appreciate being able to provide input to Senator Latz.

Senate Fill 1116 provides greater discretion to Chief Law Enforcement Officers (CLEO) when issuing permits to acquire. We support broader discretion for CLEO's to deny a transfer or a permit request to an individual who is deemed dangerous to themselves or others. I believe we can all agree that certain individuals should not have access to firearms.

SF 1116 also closes the gap of individuals purchasing handguns or semiautomatic military-style assault weapons without completing a background investigation.

The MSA will continue to work with the author as it relates to the retention of paperwork after a completed sale involving private parties. Again, the MSA appreciates the continued dialogue, and we look forward to working with the author to improve the language.

The MSA remains neutral on SF 1117. We acknowledge the efforts of the authors and advocates actively engaging the MSA in the conversation and listening to our concerns with portions of the proposed bill.

The language expanding the venue that the petitioner may file and ERPO potentially creates confusion regarding which law enforcement agency is responsible for securing and executing the court order.

MSA is concerned over allowing family and household members to petition directly to the court. We see potential for misrepresentation, putting the court and eventually law enforcement in a difficult and possible dangerous situation. We have expressed our unease with the storage of "turned in" or seized firearms. Not all sheriff's offices have the capacity to store and manage the number of potential firearms.

Again, the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association appreciates the author's willingness to include us in the conversation and listen to our recommendations for change.

James Stuart
Executive Director

Minnesota Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MINNESOTA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



**Minnesota Chapter of the
American Academy of
Pediatrics**

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March 23, 2023

Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
Minnesota State Capitol Building
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard.
St Paul, MN 55155

Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee,

On behalf of the nearly 1,000 members of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MNAAP), I am writing in support of SF1116.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, firearms are the leading cause of death for children in the United States. Every day on average, 78 children are killed or injured by firearms in the United States. This is a public health crisis. There's no other way to put it.

SF1116 is an important tool to help ensure that guns do not fall into the hands of those who should not possess them. People such as convicted felons, domestic abusers, and individuals with certain mental health conditions, should not have access to firearms. These checks can help to keep guns out of the hands of those who are at high risk of harming themselves or others.

Expanded background checks are supported by a range of experts and organizations, including medical experts, mental health professionals, law enforcement officials, and gun safety advocates. It is important to note that these proposals would not infringe upon the rights of responsible gun owners. Rather, this bill would serve to protect our communities by keeping firearms out of the hands of those who should not have them.

As pediatricians, we work to ensure the health and wellness of our patients – Minnesota's children. Expanded background checks is a necessary tool to protect the youngest in our communities from firearm-related death and injury. I ask that you support SF1116.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen Crespo".

Eileen Crespo, MD, FAAP
President, Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Brady
840 First St. NE Ste. 400
Washington, DC 20002



Testimony of Ramya Swami, Manager, State Policy, Brady
Support for Senate File 1116
Before the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
March 23, 2023

Chair Latz, Vice-Chair Verbeten, and Distinguished Members of the Minnesota Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee,

Founded in 1974, Brady works across Congress, courts, and communities, uniting gun owners and non-gun owners alike to end America's gun violence epidemic. The epidemic of gun violence reaches communities in Minnesota every day. Every 19 hours, someone in Minnesota is killed by gun violence, with more than 460 Minnesotans dying yearly from gun violence.¹ Minnesota leaders must prioritize the safety and well-being of the people of Minnesota by enacting and implementing proactive, research-informed policy solutions that prevent gun violence, save lives, and spare entire communities from loss, trauma and cycles of violence. One firearm death is one too many and Minnesota can do more – like pass Senate File 1116 – to save the lives of its citizens.

Support for SF 1116: Universal Background Checks

One of the pillars of Brady's legacy is the critically important role that Jim and Sarah had in creating the federal background check system which, to date, has stopped more than 3 million prohibited purchases.² But we also know that the system has loopholes which enable about every 1 in 5 guns to be sold today without any background check through private transactions, gun shows, and websites that facilitate gun sales online.³ These loopholes allow convicted felons, domestic abusers, and others who wish to do harm to obtain guns without any oversight. It is past time to expand lifesaving Brady background checks to *every* gun sale, and the public agrees: 97 percent of Americans, including over 90 percent of gun owners, support expanding Brady background checks.⁴

Surely we cannot expect to keep guns out of the hands of individuals that are not legally allowed to possess a firearm without ensuring a background check is required universally for public and private gun transfers throughout Minnesota. **Brady supports the effort of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee to pass SF 1116, a strong and comprehensive universal background check bill that closes Minnesota's private sale loophole to ensure that firearms don't fall into the hands of individuals who are currently prohibited from purchasing and possessing firearms under state and/or federal law.**

Conclusion

In a time when gun violence in the United States is steadily increasing, Minnesota has the opportunity to lead by example by enacting and implementing proactive, research-informed policy solutions that prevent gun violence, save lives, and spare entire communities from loss, trauma and cycles of violence. *For the reasons described above, Brady urges the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee to support the passage of SF 1116.*

Sincerely,

Ramya Swami
State Policy Manager, Brady

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. *Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)* [online]. (2005) [cited 2023 Feb. 2]. Available at: www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars.

² This estimate was derived from data in the following reports: See: Office of Justice Programs, *Background Checks for Firearms Transfers, 2013 - 2014 - Statistical Tables*, Bureau of Justice Statistics (2016) Available at: <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/bcft1314st.pdf>. ; See also: Federal Bureau of Intelligence, *Federal Denials*, (last accessed Aug. 2019) Available at: https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/federal_denials.pdf/view. Approximately 312,000 sales were blocked during the interim period from 1994-1999, 1,338,294 sales were denied via state and local agencies from 1999-2014, and FBI data shows that 1,653,771 sales were denied by the federal system from Nov. 1998 through July 31, 2019. This is a total of 3,304,065 sales that have been denied since 1994.

³ Matthew Miller, Lisa Hepburn & Deborah Azrael, *Firearm Acquisition Without Background Checks*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 166, no. 4 (2017): 233-239.

⁴ Quinnipiac University, *U.S. Support for Gun Control Tops 2-1, Highest Ever, Quinnipiac University National Poll Finds; Let Dreamers Stay, 80 Percent of Voters Say*, (20 Feb. 2018) Available at: <https://poll.qu.edu/national/release-detail?ReleaseID=2521>.

MINNESOTA GUN RIGHTS

1080 Highway 3 South, Northfield, MN 55057 | www.minnesotagunrights.org

March 23, 2023

Chairman Ronald Latz, members of the Committee,

I can't begin to tell you how opposed to this bill the members of Minnesota Gun Rights are. 100%.

I suppose I could type out statistics and tell you all how this state is safer than that state because of this or that law.

I could explain how Universal Background Checks haven't saved a single life or lessened crime in any state they've been passed in.

I could talk about how the:

Parkland Florida Shooter
Southerland Springs Church Shooter
Las Vegas Shooter
Orlando Nightclub Shooter
Charleston, SC Church Shooter
Chattanooga, Recruiting Station Shooter
The First Fort Hood Shooter
The Second Fort Hood Shooter
San Bernardino Shooters
Aurora, Colorado Shooter
Newtown, Connecticut Shooter and Gabrielle Giffords' shooter etc etc...

...ALL passed background checks or completely circumvented the background checks system before using a firearm to go on a killing spree.

Or I could explain how this bill is an absolute slap in the face of law-abiding gun owners and an unforgivable undermining of our Constitutional Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

But I won't. Because these hearings and this bill is an absolute sham.

The Chairman and the DFL have made it very clear that they want to strip us of our foundational rights, regardless of any opposing testimony, so all anyone can conclude from this is that this whole committee hearing is a dog and pony show, put on for the anti-gun left.

So, I'll just leave it with this.

The members and supporters of Minnesota Gun Rights are extremely unforgiving, and we have very long memories.

Any legislator, especially the ones in weak districts, will face the full political fury of mobilized gun owners, in their districts, at election time if they support S.F. 1116 or similar legislation in any way.

Minnesota Gun Rights will make sure of that, as we have for the last decade.

For Freedom,



Ben Dorr, Director
Minnesota Gun Rights

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

March 22, 2023

Senator Ron Latz
95 University Avenue W
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3105
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairman Latz:

I am writing to you regarding Senate File 1116 (SF 1116) and the National Rifle Association's (NRA) position on this piece of legislation. I would like to express our strong opposition to SF 1116.

The NRA has a number of concerns regarding some of the policies set forth in the bill. The NRA believes that no one should have unreasonable burdens placed on them to own or possess a firearm.

SF 1116 sets up new ways law enforcement can deny a transferee permit. It essentially attempts to incorporate a "red flag" standard into a denial of a transferee permit based on what a law enforcement agent perceives an individual's risk is to themselves or others without due process. Even worse is that the denial can potentially be indefinite.

SF 1116 makes it difficult to loan a firearm to many types of relatives and friends. Minnesota has a strong tradition of hunting and it is common to introduce people into the sport by loaning firearms for hunting purposes. HF1116 requires an onerous process before one could loan such a firearm for that purpose.

HF 1116 adds a requirement for recording serial numbers and other firearms identification information upon each transfer. This sets up a form of government firearm registration. Additionally it sets up unreasonable requirements for retention of paperwork and unreasonable criminal penalties for violations.

For these reasons, and several others, the NRA is opposed to the passage of SF 1116.

Sincerely,

Brian Gosch
Minnesota State Director