



Everytown for Gun Safety
Catherine Tang, Director of Government Affairs, Midwest
SF 4312, Pro

April 17, 2024

Re: Secure Firearm Storage in Minnesota

Dear Chair Marty and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

This letter is in support of lifesaving secure storage legislation in Minnesota. Everytown for Gun Safety is the largest violence prevention organization in America. Supporting efforts to strengthen Minnesota's secure firearm storage law is a priority for Everytown, as this is a critical tool to fight for public safety and protect communities from gun violence.

Unauthorized access to guns presents a serious safety risk to children in Minnesota. In Minnesota, an average of 43 children and teens die by guns every year, and 49% of these deaths are by suicide. Far too many children in the US are injured and killed every year after gaining unauthorized access to unsecured firearms. Over thirty years ago, Minnesota recognized this safety risk and enacted a law requiring gun owners to securely store their firearms if a child could gain access.

This bill would build on Minnesota's current secure storage law by requiring secure storage of firearms for all gun owners, regardless of whether a child is likely to gain access. Passing SF 4312 would promote responsible gun ownership and ultimately save lives. States with laws like Minnesota's current storage law are correlated with 39% lower rates of unintentional shootings by children. Enacting SF 4312 would help save more lives. Research shows that states with locking law's similar to this bill are associated with 78% lower rates of unintentional shootings by children.

I encourage members of the committee to please support SF 4312, secure firearm storage in Minnesota.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Catherine Tang
Director of Government Affairs, Midwest
Everytown for Gun Safety