



MINNESOTA ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR MINNESOTA

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Dear Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee members,

On behalf of our more than 3,100 family physician and medical student members, the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) urges you to protect Minnesota residents by encouraging the safe storage of firearms and supporting SF 4312.

The MAFP is the largest physician specialty society in Minnesota and our members take care of patients, families and communities across the state. We are leaders in primary care and see it as our job to work with our teams to keep our patients healthy, address health disparities and keep our communities safe. As physicians, the members of MAFP are committed to addressing the firearm related deaths epidemic while encouraging our communities to work together to find meaningful solutions to reduce the harm that is caused by firearms. We believe that safe and responsible firearm ownership is a pivotal component to accomplishing this mission.

An average of 363 people complete suicide with a firearm each year in Minnesota. Meanwhile, people who practice safe storage of their firearms are 60% less likely to complete suicide with a firearm due to the additional steps it would take to do so. Our children are at risk as firearms are the third leading cause of death among minors in Minnesota. Our state's current child access prevention laws are only applied after a tragedy has already occurred. This bill would make it harder for young people to access firearms, reducing the number of child deaths by firearms.

Mandated safe storage of firearms is a commonsense solution for preventing firearm related deaths, firearm related accidents, firearm related suicides and protecting all Minnesotans. As a hunter who owns firearms, I already take these steps to safely store my firearms and help protect my family. The MAFP looks forward to engaging with you and your colleagues and are grateful for our shared commitment to the health and safety of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Bob Jeske, MD
President, MAFP