



MINNESOTA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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Senator Ron Latz, Chair
Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

Senator Heather Gustafson, Author SF 4312

March 21, 2024

Dear Senators,

The Minnesota Sheriffs' Association is writing to express our concerns to SF 4312, regarding the Negligent Storage of Firearms. While we appreciate the author's intent to promote firearm safety, we believe this proposed legislation is overly broad and could have unintended consequences.

We empathize with the author's concerns about reducing unauthorized access to firearms and prioritizing the safety of children and all residents of Minnesota. We also recognize the balance that is needed to protect the rights of Minnesotans. That balance is not struck by creating a crime to own a firearm if it is not locked up or within immediate control, even when children or ineligible persons are **not** present. One can only imagine the number of scenarios where this can be a possibility.

Moreover, the penalties outlined in the bill are disproportionate to the alleged offense of negligent storage. Punishing individuals for actions they may have taken unknowingly or under circumstances beyond their control is unjust and counterproductive.

In conclusion, the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association does not support SF 4312 and urge you to reconsider its provisions in favor of more balanced and effective approaches to firearm safety.

Thank you,

James Stuart, Executive Director