

# 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 22, 2024

Judiciary and Public Safety Committee  
Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Ave W, St Paul, MN 55103  
St Paul, MN 55155

Dear Members,

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 SF 4312.

Firearm violence is an epidemic, and it is particularly acute among children, adolescents, and young adults. Firearm violence was the leading cause of death among children in recent years, surpassing auto accidents in 2020. On average, 22 children and young adults die each day as a result of firearm injuries. Many of these are accidental death or injury due to unsecured firearms.

SF 4312 aims to reduce the risk of accidental firearm deaths and injuries among children through requiring that firearms be secured with a locking device, unloaded, and kept separately from ammunition. These measures will go far in preventing unauthorized access to children and prevent tragedies caused by accidental discharges.

Adolescents are at an increased risk of suicide, and firearms are a leading cause of death among this age group. Research in the Journal of Pediatrics found that safe storage laws can reduce the risk of suicide among adolescents by making it more difficult for young people to access firearms. In addition to protecting children and teens, safe storage laws can also help to reduce theft and the illegal use of firearms.

MNAAP urges members to support SF 4312.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eileen Crespo".

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