

To Committee Chair Senator Latz and other members of the committee,

My name is Rachel Dick and I am a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. I am writing in strong support of SF 4312 (safe storage) and SF 606 (lost and stolen gun reporting). This past fall, I had dozens of conversations with voters in the east metro area about their views on gun safety legislation, including these bills specifically. A commanding majority – upwards of 80% - of all voters, from self-identified strong Democrats to strong Republicans - supported passing these laws. Many of them are gun owners and understood the need for increased accountability so that we can prevent deadly accidents from occurring, like the tragic shooting last year in which a four-year-old child shot his two-year-old brother with a gun that was left unattended and unsecured. Safe storage and reporting lost or stolen guns are so commonsense that many voters asked “Isn’t that already a law?” when I explained to them what the proposed legislation would be. I also took a gun safety course at the HERO Center at the beginning of this year, which gave me a new appreciation for the destructive potential of guns and the importance of handling them carefully with training. Keeping guns secure reduces the chance that they will fall into the wrong hands and lead to fatal consequences. Please listen to the voices of your voters from across the political spectrum and pass these highly popular, commonsense bills to keep Minnesotans safer.

Thank you,

Rachel Dick

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