

To Chair/Sen. Latz and members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee,

Please support SF 4312 and SF 606, for safe storage and reporting of lost and stolen guns.

“I’m a strong 2nd amendment supporter! You don’t want to talk to me!” I heard this over and over last year while canvassing in the east metro suburbs gun safety legislation. I spoke with nearly 300 people over the summer and fall.

But, once they were convinced that I was there to listen, not to argue or persuade or convince, people were anxious to share their perspectives and experiences. I spoke with gun owners, non-gun owners, former gun-owners, gun collectors, Republicans, Democrats, independent and unaffiliated voters, range safety officers/instructors, military and law enforcement officers and their family members. Safe storage and reporting of lost and stolen guns were the most popular and widely supported gun safety measures that we discussed. Responsible gun owners already do these things and they felt that others who do not should be held accountable.

I’m 64 years old. When I was a kid, the scariest thing we had to do at school was a fire drill – which wasn’t scary at all. Now kids have to do active shooter drills. They must help to barricade classroom doors, and they ask my friends who are teachers, “would you take a bullet for me?” Pre-schoolers are given lollipops if they hide quietly in a closet during an active shooter drill that has to be called something else, so as not to scare the kids. It’s obscene.

My husband works in the HCMC Emergency Department, treating victims of intentional and accidental gun violence virtually every day. Gun violence is out of control. We must do better and passing well-crafted, sensible bills like these, which are supported by supermajorities of Democrats, Republicans, and independent voters, are the best way to start.

Please support both SF 4312 and SF 606 and help us begin to reverse the devastation caused by gun violence in Minnesota.

Thank you for your service and your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Deborah Zvosec
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