

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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September 12, 2025

Senate Working Group on Gun Violence Prevention
Minnesota Senate Building Room 1200
95 University Ave West
St Paul, MN 55103

Dear Members of the Senate Working Group on Gun Violence Prevention,

The leading cause of death for children in the United States is not car crashes, cancer, or overdose – it is firearms. As pediatricians, we have dedicated our lives to the health of children. When the cause of death for so many of our patients is not a biological disease, but a plague of guns and bullets, we view inaction as an unconscionable choice.

On behalf of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, representing over 1,000 pediatricians across the state, I urge lawmakers to support the following policies in Minnesota:

- 1) a statewide ban on assault weapons;
- 2) a statewide ban on high-capacity magazines;
- 3) a statewide safe storage requirement; and
- 4) removal of the current prohibition on local municipalities enacting stricter firearm regulations than the state.

The policies listed above are evidence-based solutions that have reduced rates of pediatric death and injury in other states. Following the recent shooting at Annunciation Catholic Church and School in Minneapolis, the children of Minnesota need lawmakers to pass evidence-based firearm safety reform now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Smentek".

Katie Smentek, MD, FAAP
President, Minnesota Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics