

September 16th. 2025

Minnesota Senate Gun Violence Prevention Working Group
Senator Ron Latz
Senator Zaynab Mohamed

Dear Working Group Co-Chairs,

I have read the proposals to curb gun violence in Minnesota. There are some good proposals, but. There are a lot of poor proposals in my opinion, and I did not see really anything about addressing mental health that is plaguing our state. I don't think a ban on high-capacity magazines and long guns would curb it, due to it ONLY affecting law-abiding citizens who already follow the law. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) was repeatedly warned about signs of fraud in its Housing Stabilization Services (HSS) program, including bribes, falsified records, and billing for deceased clients. That costs us taxpayers millions. Can't we shut the HSS program down and use those funds to improve our mental health programs instead? A program for safe storage is a good idea, but not everyone can have a gun safe in an apartment due to the safe needing to be bolted to the ground, which is why I have my firearms bolted to my bed frame in a way no one can see them.

I read a lot of these proposals sent in asking for a training requirement and proof of the training completed, i.e., a certificate of some sort. I used to work in a job that required 3 days of classroom training and 1 day of range time. I have a permit to carry, which I am required to show to purchase a handgun or any other firearm* As of now, people can apply for a permit to purchase, which does NOT require any training. I propose we go away from that and just require the latter, which requires a certificate from a trained instructor, then apply to your local sheriff, to which do the background check, which does take some time.

There is also a bullying epidemic in our society that people will say vile things to others under the cover of anonymity behind a screen, which preys on people struggling with mental health, and drives violence. If we had programs in schools to address online bullying, since most kids these days have access to the internet and see people tearing into each other due to their opinions. We must educate kids that this is not the way.

Proposals

- Shut down the HSS program that has committed fraud to fund more mental health programs to make mental health more affordable
- Firearm safe storage programs to keep unauthorized users from obtaining firearms
- Move to only a Permit to carry program that requires more than one day of classroom training and one day of range time to show proper safe use of firearms
- Ties into mental health but addresses the bullying in schools and online via programs towards children, for example, the D.A.R.E. program about drugs is a great start to using a similar structure towards bullying.

Thank you for reading these, and I hope you all have a great day.

–N.Baker