

April 28, 2026

Senate Finance Committee

Dear Chair Marty and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I'm a mother of 2 students that attend Annunciation Catholic School. August 27th has forever changed our family and our community. I'm writing to share my support of SF3655, a broad package that invests in gun violence prevention, school safety, and responsible firearm ownership.

On August 27th, my children went to school excited for the third day of a new year. Within minutes, they were running for their lives.

My son dove under a pew with his first-grade buddy as bullets flew over their heads. The friend he walked into church with was shot. He remembers the sound of the gunfire, the screams, and counting the seconds until it stopped.

My daughter ran during the shooting and hid in the basement, trying to barricade the door with her classmates, hiding from a monster who had access to a weapon of war that was legally purchased.

When I arrived, I didn't know if both of my children were alive.

That morning, a gunman fired into a church full of children, killing two and injuring 28 more. This was not random. It was preventable.

Our laws made it far too easy for a deeply troubled person to arm themselves and hunt a church full of kids.

We are grieving Harper and Fletcher. But we are also living with what this did to the children who survived.

Our eight-year-old is afraid to sleep. Our fourteen-year-old cannot hear a gun without reliving that day. Even walking into a church feels unsafe.

We are a family of responsible gun owners. We understand safety. This was not about responsibility. It was about access to a weapon so destructive.. And if nothing changes, there will be another shooting.

Another set of parents will stand where I am standing. Another community will be shattered. More children will run, hide, and wonder if they are going to die.

Please don't wait for the next one.

Choose action. Make meaningful change.

You have a chance this session to make sure no other children have to go through what mine have. I know you, like me, care deeply about protecting Minnesota kids, and this is an opportunity for you to make Minnesota a safer place for all of our children. This bill invests in gun violence prevention, responsible firearm ownership, and school safety.

I hope you will join me and other Annunciation families by spreading light and voting yes on SF3655.

Sincerely,
Annie Feste