

Name: Liz Mulholland

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

Assault weapons are unnecessary in our communities. Assault weapons make our communities less safe, and no gun owner needs an assault weapon for self protection or to hunt. While gun ownership may be a protected right, it is not something that cannot be limited to ensure the health and safety of our communities. Banning assault weapons is a simple and effective way to limit the destruction wrought by mass shootings.

Name: Lindsey Lamb

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

As a former public school teacher and mother, I support the legislation SF 3655. I live in fear for our teachers and students every day. I want to lower our statistics of gun violence and get in alignment with our peer countries. I know my rural family members who espouse Christianity and attend churches will fight this tooth and nail. I hope they and Republican voters will acknowledge that these weapons of war will not protect them from tyrannical government, and that the loss of life we have had instead is too great. I do not want to go back to classroom teaching (after taking a few years to care for my children). The lack of pay commensurate with my education and the risk to my life from assault weapons will keep me and many others away from the career we love.

Name: Anna Amyx

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

The damage done in our communities by gun violence is beyond all reason. The right to live is greater than perceived need to own a gun. There is absolutely no conceivable need for military-style automatic weapons or high-capacity magazines to be in the hands of the general public.

Name: Joe Roedl

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

I support a ban on semiautomatic military-style assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines because those types of weapons and ammunition are involved in mass shootings. There is no reason for these weapons and ammo to exist, except for killing people. A lot of people.

Name: Hayley Wiesman

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

There is no need to have assault rifles in the hands of everyday Americans. They have killed too many people, too many children!! And there needs to be common sense gun laws

Name: Dave Bruins

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

This bill allows current gun owners to continue to own their guns that this bill bans by way of a certification process while making the ability to buy, sell, or inherit the identified guns nearly impossible in the state. We have lost enough children to semi automatic weapons. One was too many. I am supportive of any regulation that has a chance to save lives.

Name: Bridget Bayley

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

I support banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines. After the horrific school shooting last year, it is clear that these weapons have no place in our community. Banning these weapons will not infringe on the ability for Minnesotans to enjoy hunting and target shooting. It will only help prevent violence and the massacre of more of our neighbors.

Name: Erin Sindberg Porter

City: St. Paul

Testimony:

It is critically important to implement common sense measures such as the ones proposed in this bill, banning semiautomatic assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines. The children praying in the Annunciation chapel on August 27 will forever be traumatized after an incredibly sick, deranged individual opened fire on the third day of school. My friends Jesse and Mollie lost their incredible son Fletcher, an exuberant, kind, gregarious, thoughtful, curious, spirited child who brought tremendous light and love into every space he occupied and lifted the spirits of everyone he encountered. No child should be killed at school, no parent should worry about their child's safety when they leave for school. The research is abundantly clear that banning assault style weapons--useful only for assault--and high capacity magazines decreases the incidence of violence. Every other civilized country demonstrates that. It is critically important that we take seriously our obligation to protect Minnesotans from these weapons of war. I support this bill.

Name: Stephanie Johnson

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

As someone who comes from a family of hunters, semi automatic military-style assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines have never been used by us. These kind of weapons are a deadly overkill! Weapons like these should not be in the hands of citizens. There is no reason for it. Even in the case of hobby or sport. Guns are so easy to access as it is. Ban assault rifles!

Name: Amanda Shields

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

Our country is not safe with these types of weapons in the hands of civilians. History has shown that these weapons are used to cause unimaginable pain and devastation, and in addition to addressing access to mental health care, these weapons need to be strictly monitored. Our children should not be terrified to go to school. The least we can do to protect them is to ban semi automatic military style assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines. We can do better as a society, and it begins with bills like this.

Name: Susan Bentz

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

I live in the neighborhood affected by the shooting at Annunciation which took the lives of Fletcher Merkel and Harper Moyski. We owe their parents some action on preventing this unnecessary, tragic loss from happening again. Honor those two young lives by finding the fortitude to pass much needed legislation. The best time to do it was years ago, so please, do it now!

Name: Katelyn Buechler

City: Mahtomedi

Testimony:

I am asking for a ban on assault weapons so that we can help prevent mass shooting fatalities. I am exhausted from a news cycle where we are regularly hearing about school children being gunned down. The Annunciation school shooting impacted the community and I appreciate the lawmakers who are saying enough is enough. Thoughts and prayers are not going to stop these tragedies, but stronger laws might.

Name: Laura Kimball

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

The horror these children and adults faced MUST NEVER happen again! It is ridiculous that we live in a first world nation and yet the words Columbine, Sandy Hook, Parkland and now Annunciation don't just mean someone's school but rather where children were murdered. If we can make a blanket law where every adult that gets on an airplane must take off their shoes because ONE person unsuccessfully tried to light a bomb that was in their shoe, WHY??? can we not stop selling military grade weapons to civilians after countless incidents of mass shootings have taken people's loved ones?

Name: Lauren Goodspeed

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

There is absolutely no reason regular citizens need access to semiautomatic assault weapons. Time and time again, we have seen these weapons used in mass shootings against neighbors in places of worship, friends out dancing, and even children at school. The United States had a serious problem with gun violence and it's time for us to get serious about protecting our citizens from the horrific consequences of this sort of violence carried out using military-style assault weapons. How many more times do we have to live through waking up to the devastating news of a mass shooting in the US or worse—like at Annunciation—our own community?

I teach at a local university and it is absolutely insane to me that my students have grown up with the trauma of doing mass shooting drills and for some experiencing active shooter threats. I also work with exchange students learning to teach and some of their first questions are not about classroom management or pedagogy,, but about what they should do in a mass shooting because THAT is the reputation the US has created for itself in other parts of the world. I myself have felt a twinge of fear in the back of my mind on multiple occasions wondering what I would do if an active shooter were to enter my classroom or my office. This is no way to live and we can do better.

Minnesotans support common sense gun reform and this is a first step to making that happen. Minnesotans are urging our representatives to DO SOMETHING.

Name: Joanna Biessener

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

Please BAN assault rifles and high capacity magazines! These are meant for war, not for people with 'hobbies.' They inevitably end up in the hands of extremists and for there to the bodies of our children! Ban assault weapons in MN now!

Name: Jean Stilwell

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

I know of no reason that citizens of Minnesota should possess automatic weapons. They are not acceptable hunting weapons unless your purpose is to slaughter wildlife but they are extremely dangerous for our community. To allow the mass killing of children to appease some so-called hunters is shameful.

Name: Emilie Cagnazzo

City: Ham Lake

Testimony:

Banning assault weapons is common sense! Our state has seen enough gun violence.
Something must be done.

Name: Mallory Tulp

City: Saint Paul

Testimony:

On August 27th, 2025, another perpetrator of gun violence opened fire on Annuciation school, using a semi automatic rifle. These guns are often used in mass shootings, as assault weapons make shootings more lethal, through greater damage inflicted by each shot and the ability to load and fire rounds more quickly. How many more times does a shooting like August 27th need to occur, how many children need to be shot or killed, how much closer to home does gun violence need to get before we take a stand to end it? As a Minnesotan and as a mother, I urge the banning of semiautomatic assault rifles and high capacity ammunition magazines to prevent mass shooting casualties and active shooter events.

Name: Candace Nelson

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

Please help us ban assault weapons in the state of Minnesota. Our kids deserve better.

Thank you!

Name: Diane Wussow

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

I support legislation that prohibits military level firearms from the general public, excepting trained safety officers. These weapons simply are not necessary for wild game hunting in our state or anywhere else. More importantly, automated weapons do the opposite of keeping our neighbors and first responders safe.

Name: Elizabeth McCambridge

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

I won't go into all the reasons why this bill should pass other than, NOT ONE MORE CHILD!

Name: Carolyn Hall

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

I support the passing of S.F.3655. There is no need for access to semi-automatic weapons and high capacity magazines. The world is not safer with guns. With limited access to semi-automatic weapons, the probability and possibility of mass shootings will decrease.

Name: Laure Vail

City: St. Paul

Testimony:

"The children are always ours. Every single one of them." My neighbors and friends and I have been living by this James Baldwin quote as we have witnessed ICE terrorize our community, the slaughter of Palestinian children, and continual news of yet another and another school shooting across the country. It is unconscionable to me that automatic weapons are legal and available for citizens to purchase. There is no purpose for these weapons except to injure and kill humans as quickly as possible. I am the parent of a 5 year old and a 1 year old. They should not have to practice active shooter drills in school. They should not have to worry about how to administer first aid to a gunshot victim. But these are the very real experiences of children across the US. It is our duty to keep our children safe, and banning automatic weapons in Minnesota would help us move toward a safer community for us and our children.

Name: Julian West

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

Gun violence is a huge problem in the U.S. The solution cannot be more guns. Why does any private citizen need weapons of war? These kind of arms should be banned, period.

Name: Marianne Clark

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

As a resident of beautiful South Minneapolis, a mother, a mental health therapist, and former school administrator, I support a ban on assault rifles and large capacity magazines. The science is clear, these types of weapons of war cause great bodily harm and mental trauma when used against our neighbors. Thank you for bringing this bill forward and helping our community imagine a more peaceful future.

Name: Alyssa Prokott

City: Ramsey

Testimony:

I am starting to consider where to send my almost 4 year old to school. Having to weigh the possibility that my child could be shot while attending school is so backwards I can't believe we have made no progress on this front. Please take this step to ban assault weapons.

Name: Shinano Katagiri Emanuele

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

I support the ban on semiautomatic military style assault weapons & large capacity ammunition magazines. My parents & friends go to Annunciation Church and I was devastated when learning of the shooting that occurred last year. There is absolutely no worthwhile reason for our society to allow such destructive & dangerous weapons into our communities. The lives of our children and loved ones are worth infinitely more than a supposed right to own military style assault weapons. It's long past due for us to get our priorities straight!

Name: Penny Fuller

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

I support this bill to BAN semiautomatic military-style assault weapons AND large-capacity ammunition magazines. These are weapons of war and exist only to inflict maximum destruction. This fact is not debatable. They should NOT have a place in our society. Certainly they don't have a place for use by an authentic hunting sportsman, nor a place in LAWFUL selfdefense. Arguing against this ban is simply pandering to the NRA or politically motivated groups who spew garbage speak about how such weapons should be protected under the second amendment. Well there is no doubt the reason for their entrenched viewpoint. They benefit. They gaslight by insisting that these are just another generation of defense guns and even comparing this to pushback in the 1970s against proliferation of handgun ownership. Where there are the loudest voices of opposition, follow the money. Who benefits from this continued support for weapons that allow massive damage with ease? It is not the individual. It is not society. The NRA's arguments are stale and false. If there are arguable statistics they put forward claiming gun violence does not correlate, perhaps it is simply because the success they have had in fighting regulation altogether, meaning there are insufficient systems for background checks and sales of firearms altogether. Countless loopholes and oops.

Name: Ruby Engel

City: Maple Grove

Testimony:

I want action to ban semiautomatic military-style assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines. As a school social work intern in Minnesota approaching graduation, I have seen the impact of gun violence on students with fear of threats, family and friends connected to recent Minnesota attacks. I have found out that as many school shootings that have happened, many more have been prevented through reports of students beforehand, at times by a very narrow margin. What we currently are doing is not enough. Please take action to ban semiautomatic military-style assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines

Name: Michelle Bares

City: Zimmerman

Testimony:

Hello, My name is Michelle, Miss Bares, or Mom, depending on who you are. I am a teacher. I am a mother. A little less than a decade ago, I decided to quit teaching in the schools/classroom and homeschool. After living through these past ten years, losing track of the amount of mass shootings, all the young lives ended in schools, and nothing having changed, I don't regret my decision at all. We, the United States of America, unlike many other countries I have visited with my children, watch children and teachers being murdered over and over again and refuse to make drastic changes. I will always remember one incident in particular that has remained with me. I was a substitute teacher for a class of 5th and 6th graders, who mistook a dropped textbook in the hallway outside our classroom for a gunshot. Lights were out, door was locked, and they were huddled in a corner before I felt like I could even blink. The fear and constant awareness the kids here have in school, whether you realize it, want to accept it, whatever, is high. And it's sickening. Little children in America, little humans that have only been living for 5 years, have to practice what they need to do if someone comes into their little world and tries to shoot and kill them. I have multiple friends who are teachers, who have chosen to homeschool or move across the world to teach, because teaching and sending their own children to school here now is not something they are willing to do. My words and experiences are not an opinion. They are reality. I am sitting right now, looking at a photo of my daughter and I walking through a garden in the Cotswolds in England. I remember the day after that photo was taken, I heard the news of another school shooting in the United States. I sat wishing the people in my country placed a higher value on a child's innocence and right to live, over the right to own weapons that so quickly and easily can kill so many humans. I have the chance to walk in gardens with her again. I have the chance to look into her eyes and wonder what her thoughts and dreams are. I have the chance to speak with her, teach her, watch her experience the world I show her, watch her grow and create her own beautiful life. These chances are taken away from far too many humans and have been taken away from too many humans for far too long. I fully support and advocate for the ban on semiautomatic military-style assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines. Michelle

Name: Leah Garczynski

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

Save our children.

Name: Edward C. Lorenz

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

I write as a Vietnam Veteran and member of Veterans for Peace Chapter 27. I served as a medic in Vietnam. I will not write about physical injuries from weapons of war but from my experience in the 935th Medical Detachment, a psychiatric unit that treated soldiers suffering from what we now call PTSD. When I arrived in Vietnam, I had orders for a fire support base in the Central Highlands, but because I had been drafted out of Georgetown University with several psychology courses on my record. I was pulled out of line and sent to the 935th. At the 935th I learned from our brilliant commander, an exceptionally psychiatrists trained at the University of Pennsylvania, about the different psychiatric needs during maturation. He trained us in the aging research of Erik Ericson and what it clarified about most of our patients. I learned even by military standards, soldiers under 30 were in a young adult category and that the youngest draftees were transitioning out of a still pediatric classification. Except for the rare older soldiers, most of our patients faced special challenges living with the violence of war and handling weapons that brought about that violence. After half my tour at the 935th, I then had the more traditional medical experience in a surgical ward at the 24th Evacuation Hospital, where we stabilized soldiers with physical wounds in preparation for movement out of the country. Now, a half century later, this experience informs so much of my thinking about gun control in the U.S. Tragically, especially many of the “school shooters,” as at Annunciation, fall into the young adult or pediatric classification. Depending upon which events are included, the average age of ‘school shooters’ is under 20, with the most common age being 17. In our country, with ubiquitous weapons of war, it is no wonder we have so many tragedies involving the mix of these weapons and young people. In case after case, school shooters have been younger, when coping mechanisms are not fully developed. After Vietnam, as a student at the University of Chicago and then a professor, I regularly focused on what could lead to violence and especially how to avoid it. It was during these years that I realized what I first thought was the unique mass violence of the Vietnam Era repeatedly appeared with perpetrators of horrendous shootings of civilians, especially kids in schools. Then in 2012 one of my young cousins was a victim of the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut. She, as several other of the 26 student victims, was a special needs kid. My brother and I often talked of the unique horror that must have engulfed her and the other kids as they died of their horrible wounds – an experience like those of the adolescent soldiers I treated in Vietnam. I certainly understand law-abiding people who collect technically complex ‘things,’ including modern weapons. I don’t oppose weapons for

hunting. But given the dangers of modern firearms, I cannot fathom why any sane person would oppose regulations to make it more difficult for 'disturbed' people to buy a weapon of war. Hunters do not want weapons that tear apart their prey. The blood and gore brought to our world – especially school children - by modern weapons of war, especially when made easily available even to troubled adolescents because of our lax fire-arm regulations, plead for change. Even one young child dying because of easy access to these weapons, is one too many. Legislators who support the ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines deserve great credit for the courage to act. Sincerely, /s/ Edward C. Lorenz, Ph.D. lorenz@alma.edu

Name: Michael Orange

City: West St. Paul

Testimony:

Support of a Minnesota Ban on the Sale and Transfer of Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines (SF 3655, SF 3654/HF 3433, and SF 3714/HF 3402) Chapter 27, Veterans For Peace What we want. We want the Legislature to approve a ban on the sale and transfer of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, which would make Minnesota the eleventh state to do so. These mass “killing machines,” especially assault rifles, are semiautomatic versions of weapons created for deadly battlefield purposes. We know they are the weapon of choice for mass murderers, responsible for more than 85% of the fatalities in mass shootings. An assailant with an assault rifle is able to hurt and kill twice the number of people compared to an assailant with a non-assault rifle or handgun. An article in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel stated, “AR-15 bullets can penetrate the soft body armor typically worn by police, which is built to stop handgun rounds.” Veterans know first-hand the damage these weapons of war cause. One Vietnam vet described how two young Vietnamese boys planted a bomb on his fire support base that went off prematurely. The assault rifle rounds fired by his fellow Marines literally ripped and exploded the boys’ bodies to shreds as they tried to escape. An Army medic in Vietnam described how an M16 round entered the left wrist of an attacking enemy soldier, traveled along his arm, through his chest and abdomen, and finally exited out the top of his right thigh. Such horror stories aren’t limited to veterans. An emergency room doctor said damage done by assault rifle bullets looks like a grenade went off in a body, while damage from a 9mm handgun bullet looks like a bad knife cut. The gunman with assault weapons at a Las Vegas concert fired 1,000 rounds in ten minutes, murdering 60 people and injuring nearly 900. The damage was so devastating for the victims of the Robb Elementary School massacre in Uvalde, Texas, parents had to submit DNA swabs to identify the remains of their children. Using his legally acquired assault rifle, the shooter at Annunciation Church and School in Minneapolis on 8/27/25 fired 116 high-powered, military rounds in just a few minutes killing 2 children and wounding 23 people including 20 children. We know that bans are constitutional and effective. Five federal appellate courts have confirmed the constitutionality of the existing bans in 10 states and DC, and the Supreme Court has consistently decided not to question the decisions of these federal courts. State bans save lives. A study published in Applied Economics Letters concluded, “[I]t was found that assault weapons bans in the states that approved them reduced the number of school shooting victims by 54%.” Similarly, a Johns Hopkins University study stated, “[W]e see a 70% lower rate of individuals killed in mass shootings associated with state bans of [high-capacity magazines].” We know that the

experts and Minnesotans want them. According to a recent statewide poll, 61% of Minnesotans support a state ban on assault weapons, and 64% support banning high-capacity magazines. Gov. Walz has also voiced his strong support. , The mayors of Minneapolis and St. Paul and seven other cities stated support for a ban, and the city councils of Minneapolis, St. Paul, Edina, and West St. Paul approved official actions in support. As a part of the hearings by the Senate Gun Violence Prevention Working Group, 10 organizations submitted “proposals” that stated support for a state ban on assault weapons, including 3 medical groups with a total of 14,000 members. We know the gun industry is about profit not protection. Their ghoulish marketing now targets women and children even though the plague of gun violence is the leading cause of death for American youth. Our schools—with their regular, lock-down drills—have become a place of fear for our children. Yet the industry’s latest weapon is a smaller assault rifle for kids, the JR15, that fires a .22 caliber round. Advertising includes the company’s logo that features child skulls with rifle crosshairs for eyes and a pacifier. It’s about the guns. When it comes to mass shootings, it’s about banning these weapons of war, not some imaginary Second Amendment right to buy them, nor the dodge of blaming inadequate mental health services, nor the lie that AR-15-style rifles are not “weapons of war.” When firing either military or civilian ammunition, AR-15-style rifles are actually more powerful than the military’s standard-issue, M4 assault rifle that replaced the M16. What is more important is that this ammunition can tumble and fragment upon impact, which makes them horribly deadly. It’s about our citizens—especially our children—and the lives that would be saved by this ban.

Name: Abby Thalacker

City: Minneapolis

Testimony:

I support a ban on semiautomatic assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines. Minnesota needs to be serious about ending gun violence. I believe that guns can be used safely, but I don't believe all people are capable of that. Unfortunately, the people that are incapable are the ones we need to both protect and fight against and these kinds of regulations are how we do that. I'm excited and eager for Minnesota to become a state where children going to school only have to think about learning and spending time with friends instead of potentially experiencing or witnessing acts of violence. While we're a long way from that dream, I think this is a step we need to take to get closer.