

Testimony of Rachel Pekarek for SF 3655
Volunteer with Moms Demand Action

1 Judiciary Committee for Gun Sense In America
Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy

Chair Latz, Ranking Minority Member Limmer, and Committee Members,

My name is Rachel Pekarek, and I am writing today to urge the committee to support SF 3655, bills to prohibit the transfer and possession of assault weapons and to prohibit the manufacture, sale, and possession of high-capacity magazines, respectively.

I am a resident of South Minneapolis, and I live just 1 mile away from Annunciation Catholic School. I have a 14 month old son who also attends a daycare nearby. I am testifying today because on August 27, 2025, less than two months after my son started daycare, we received a notification that the building had been put on lockdown due to an active shooter in the area. The terror I felt shook me to my core as I desperately searched for more information. When I finally found out he was safe, I didn't feel relieved. I just felt heartbroken and fearful for the future. Because while our daycare was fortunately spared that day, the children of Annunciation Catholic School, many of whom live in our neighborhood, were not. I couldn't help but think about the parents who would never hold their kids again, about how much they loved them, how unimaginable their grief must be, and how it could be us next.

My son was not even a year old before he experienced his first active shooter lockdown. If no action is taken, it seems only a matter of time before we'll likely be in this situation again. It is for this reason I believe banning the possession of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines is not political, but a practical way to save precious lives. Research shows that having these bans at a state level reduces the likelihood of an active shooter event and reduces the injuries and fatalities that can occur.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on SF 3655.
Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.

Regards,
Rachel Pekarek