



February 25, 2026

Dear Members of the Elections Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), I write in strong support of HF 3351 to repeal state preemption of local municipalities regulating firearms.

According to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), more than 500 Minnesotans die by firearms each year, with the number increasing annually. Physicians see firsthand the physical and emotional toll firearm injuries inflict on patients of all ages.

In recent years, the Minnesota Legislature has taken critical steps to reduce firearm-related harm, including expanded background checks and extreme risk protection orders. These policies will lower the rates of death and injury by firearm. However, no single statewide policy can address the specific circumstances faced by every community in Minnesota.

HF 3351 would allow local governments to adopt firearm safety regulations that are more protective than state law when appropriate. Local officials understand the public safety challenges in their communities and should have the authority to respond. Removing state preemption will allow municipalities to implement solutions that align with local needs while remaining consistent with state law.

Firearm violence is a preventable public health crisis. Empowering local communities to act, in partnership with the state, will strengthen Minnesota's overall approach to prevention and save lives. On behalf of Minnesota's physicians, I urge you to support HF 3351 and restore local authority to enact firearm safety protections.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Lisa Mattson, MD  
President, Minnesota Medical Association