



September 12, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Working Group on Gun Violence Prevention,

On behalf of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), representing more than 10,000 physicians and physicians-in-training across the state, thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on the rise of firearm violence in Minnesota.

According to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), more than 500 Minnesotans die by firearms each year. This is a troubling statistic, and lawmakers can take proven steps to reduce the rate of death and injury due to firearms. In 2023, Minnesota passed expanded background checks and extreme risk protection orders. These evidence-based policies will reduce the rate of death and injury due to firearms, but no single policy will fix the problem entirely.

That is why we need a multipronged approach to address this public health crisis. Not taking immediate action will only put the lives of more Minnesotans at risk. On behalf of the MMA, I urge lawmakers to pass a full statewide ban on assault rifles, including military-style semi-automatic firearms, and a statewide ban on high-capacity magazines.

In other states, data suggests a correlation between assault weapons bans and an overall reduction in shooting deaths, specifically mass shootings with four or more people being killed. Between 2015 and 2022, mass shootings where assault weapons were used resulted in nearly six times as many people shot per incident on average. Studies have found that mass shooting fatalities were 70% less likely during the 10-year period of the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban, compared to the periods before and after the ban expired in 2004. Estimates also suggest that a continued federal ban from 2005 through 2019 would have prevented at least 30 mass shootings and could have prevented the deaths of nearly 1,500 people.

The MMA also urges lawmakers to support a statewide requirement that firearms be securely stored, unloaded, and kept separate from ammunition. Known as “safe storage” laws, these policies have a direct impact at reducing rates of death by suicide, especially for children. National studies show that safe storage laws reduce firearm suicides anywhere from 13% to 23% among youth in other states. This would have a significant impact in Minnesota, where MDH data from 2024 demonstrates that the majority of firearm-related deaths were suicide (72%), followed by homicide (26.2%). Many of these cases involve children, contributing to firearms being the leading cause of death for children in the United States.

Lastly, the MMA urges lawmakers to remove the current prohibition on local municipalities enacting stricter firearm regulations than the state. This request was also made by leaders from local governments earlier this month.

Firearm violence is a public health crisis in Minnesota, and across the U.S. To save lives and protect the well-being of all Minnesotans, I urge lawmakers to pass a full statewide ban of assault rifles and high-capacity magazines, safe storage requirements, and remove the current prohibition on local municipalities enacting stricter firearm regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this critical public health crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edwin Bogonko", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edwin Bogonko, MD, MBA  
President, Minnesota Medical Association