

Testimony on HB 1311
27 January 2021

My name is Cheryl Biller, from Fargo. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into your deliberations on HB 1311 – I ask that you give this bill a do NOT pass recommendation.

This bill is yet another attempt to put guns, in the hands of virtually anyone who can complete a simple permit application, in more public places. Places like schools where a gun could fall out of a busy mom's purse and unintentionally discharge. Or where a teacher has to be concerned that an angry parent might threaten them. Or places like the VA where health care providers might have to be concerned a patient could shoot them. This bill does nothing to support law enforcement who have come out in opposition – so how can you say you support law and order and vote in favor of a bill that puts all officers in danger?

The end result of this bill is that tension and fear in the community generally will go up. Violence will be escalated, not de-escalated. And more people will be injured and killed. Our state will be less safe – and more specifically our kids and front line workers will be in danger. You have a duty to protect the citizens of the state and this bill does the opposite. Guns have but one purpose and that is to kill. They are dangerous tools and the average citizen is not appropriately trained to know how to use them.

I appreciate your careful deliberation of this bill, and ask you for a DO NOT PASS vote.

Cheryl Biller