



MN Gun Owners Law Center - SF3661

Chair and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Gun Owners Law Center, I write in opposition to SF 3631.

This bill would close off a longstanding lawful pathway for permit holders to carry in Capitol Area state buildings and replace it with a near-total ban once a person leaves a vehicle. That change cuts against the openness of the people's house. The Capitol is not just another government office. It is the place where citizens attend hearings, meet legislators, petition their government, and participate directly in public life. A bill that broadly disarms peaceable, licensed citizens before they may enter that space makes the Capitol less open to the very people it is supposed to serve.

The bill is also discriminatory in practical effect. It does not merely restrict carry inside the building. It disarms many lawful permit holders from the moment they leave their front door unless they are privileged enough to own or have access to a vehicle. A person who drives at least has a statutory option to transport a firearm to the Capitol and leave it in the vehicle. A person who relies on public transportation, walking, or other pedestrian travel has no comparable option at all. For those Minnesotans, the bill operates as a complete bar from the start of their trip.

That is not equal access. It creates one rule for citizens with cars and another for citizens without them. In practice, it favors those with greater means and burdens those who are least able to work around the restriction. The right to participate in public life at the Capitol should not depend on whether a person can afford a vehicle or has a place to store a lawfully carried firearm before entering.

The bill also adopts a double standard. It removes lawful carry for ordinary permit holders while preserving an exception for a narrow class of retired peace officers working in a legislative security role. The result is a system in which ordinary citizens are disarmed, while a preferred class remains armed based on status and connection. That is difficult to justify in a building that belongs to the public.

Minnesota should not make its Capitol less open, less equal, and less accessible to peaceable citizens who seek to engage with their government. For these reasons, SF 3631 should not advance.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Doar

President - Minnesota Gun Owners Law Center