

Protect Minnesota Media Statement

From: The Rev. Nancy Nord Bence, Executive Director

To: Don Heinzman

Date: March 14, 2016

Re: Increased applications for permits to carry in Minnesota



Protect Minnesota has no issue with responsible gun owners who go through the permit to carry application process at their county sheriff's office, undergo a criminal background check, wait up to 30 days for processing, and complete authorized firearms training, as required by law. Our concern is the estimated 40% of gun buyers in Minnesota who take advantage of loopholes in the law which enable felons, gang members, sexual offenders, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill to purchase handguns from unlicensed dealers, at gun shows and online, with no background checks. We know that background checks dramatically decrease the number of women fatally shot by their partners, the number of police killed with handguns, and the number of people who take their own lives with guns. They also decrease the number of illegal guns crossing state lines. For this reason, the number one policy focus at Protect Minnesota is the passage of universal background check legislation now under consideration at the Capitol. As the only independent state-based gun violence prevention organization, Protect Minnesota is working in partnership with national groups towards this end.

It appears that the increasing number of applications by Minnesota residents for permits to carry firearms is directly related to the fear mongering that has been so prominent during this election cycle. It's a shame that those fearful voices don't point out the truth about gun violence in our state: that 80% of gun deaths in Minnesota are caused by suicide, not homicide. A recent Harvard study showed that individuals living where guns are present are 3-5 times more likely to commit suicide by gun than those living where guns are not present. Thus, guns make us LESS safe, not more.

For more information, contact The Rev. Nancy Nord Bence at 763-639-5941.

Protect Minnesota – Minnesotans Working Together to Prevent Gun Violence

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