



## League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

### **Copyright Notice:**

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit [www.mnhs.org/copyright](http://www.mnhs.org/copyright).



THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

February 21, 2000

Minnesota Senate Crime Prevention Committee  
Senator Allan Spear, Chair  
Senator Jane Ranum (SF 2974)  
306 State Capitol  
75 Constitution Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senators,

For eleven years the League of Women Voters of Minnesota has studied, reached consensus, shared our findings with the public and taken action on gun violence prevention in our state and in Washington, D.C.

During the past year, representatives of our action committee have attended meetings throughout Minnesota concerning firearms and public safety. We have heard from judges, county attorneys, city attorneys and law enforcement officials. All testified as to the great need in Minnesota for better sharing of criminal background information. It was one of the few issues that gun enthusiasts and gun violence prevention people could agree upon.

Indeed, better sharing of criminal background information is the common thread of agreement throughout the state when it comes to gun violence prevention in Minnesota.

We urge the support of SF 2974.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Westphal  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota Action Committee, Firearms

TO: LWVMN Action Committee/ NANCY WITTA, SALLY SAWYER

FROM: LWVMN ACTION Committee (Firearms) LYNNE WESTPHAL (612/941-8493)

RE: Conversation with Sally about Sen. Jane Ranum's request yesterday for a letter from LWVMN supporting her bill addressing better sharing of criminal background information in MN. (This in response to a letter of encouragement I sent her via FAX on Feb. 16 supporting SF 2974.

Thank you for agreeing to put this on LWV letterhead and delivering it to Sen. Ranum's office when you deliver the other legislative material at noon today.

Since Sen. Ranum's hearing is at 2:00 today, she and her assistant request that the LWV letter be placed on assistant Sara's chair, (desk on the left, not in a private office), because they will both be in a meeting before the hearing at 2:00. They both expressed their apologies for the last minute request and our willingness to support this very important bill.

SEE PAGE 2

Again, thank you for your help Sally and Nancy. I tried to keep the letter as bare bones as possible, deleting some of the quotes from my letter to Jane. i.e. "Target Stores has the technology to know where every tennis shoe in stock is. But the state of Minnesota can only hope to get enough information to keep the people like Donald Blom off the streets." Judge Larry Cohen

For Nancy Witter

**From:** Lloyd Leonard <LloydL@lwv.org>  
**To:** State League Presidents <LeaguePresidents@lwv.org>  
**Cc:** Board of Directors <BoardofDirectors@lwv.org>  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 1999 6:33 PM  
**Subject:** LWVUS Urgent Lobby Request # 106-6

fax:

612/ 934-5975

This is a post-only service. Do not reply to this e-mail message.

\*\*\*\*\*

## CRUCIAL GUN VIOLENCE VOTE THIS WEEK

The House of Representatives is expected to vote on Thursday, June 17, on gun safety legislation. Either side could win.

Representatives report that they are hearing from the NRA (National Rifle Association) in opposition to new gun safety measures, but that they ARE NOT HEARING from concerned citizens who support gun safety.

## YOUR REPRESENTATIVES NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Now is the time to let your Representatives know that they must pass new gun safety legislation to protect our children and the public.

## ACTION NEEDED

1. Call or e-mail your Representatives. (Phone calls are more likely to be effective.)

Urge your Representatives to support the McCarthy Amendment. Tell them you support the reasonable gun safety provisions adopted by the Senate, especially the gun show measures.

You can reach your Representatives through the Capitol Hill switchboard at 202-224-3121. E-mail can be sent to members of the House through the League Action Line on the LWV web site at <http://www.lwv.org>.

2. Copy this alert to your e-mail address list with a note asking them to take action.

3. Ask your friends, neighbors and League members to call as well.

## UP-TO-THE-MINUTE INFORMATION

Before Memorial Day, the Senate adopted reasonable gun safety measures designed to protect our children and the public from gun violence. The measures would: 1) mandate that background checks be conducted on all gun show purchasers, whether they obtain a firearm from a federally licensed gun

called

Red Wing  
(Dist 1)

St. Cloud  
(Dist 8)

St. Cloud  
(Dist 7)

Winfield  
(Dist. 7)

St. Peter  
(Dist. 1)

Mankato  
(Dist. 1)

Adrian  
(Dist. 3)

e-mailed 17

League  
w. e-mail

+ 10 Min.  
activities

dealer or from a private seller, 2) ban the importation of ammunition "clips" capable of holding more than 10 bullets, 3) make it illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to purchase or possess an assault weapon or handgun, and 4) require that all handguns sold in the U.S. come equipped with a trigger lock or similar safety device.

The House of Representatives is expected to vote on gun safety legislation this week. The parliamentary situation is still in flux. At this writing, it is unclear exactly what legislation the leadership will bring to the floor and what amendments they will allow.

We expect the crucial vote to come on an amendment sponsored by Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D NY) and Rep. Marge Roukema (R NJ). Their amendment would preserve the gun show language passed by the Senate. Alternative language is expected from Rep. John Dingell (D MI) that would add a NEW loophole by reducing the waiting period for background checks from three business days to 24 hours for licensed gun dealers operating at gun shows. This would WEAKEN CURRENT LAW!

Additional information is found in LWVUS Urgent Lobby Request # 106-5, dated June 9, which can be found at [http://www.lwv.org/glc106\\_5.htm](http://www.lwv.org/glc106_5.htm). Information is also available at <http://www.handguncontrol.org>.

###



# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

October 21, 1998

John Choi  
Hessian, McKasy, and Soderberg  
Minneapolis, MN

Dear Mr. Choi:

The position on firearms of the League of women Voters of the United States, adopted at its 1990 national convention states: "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens."

The Minnesota League's position on firearms "support[s] restrictions on the sale, possession and use of firearms by private parties in the State of Minnesota."

Increasing the number of concealed, loaded firearms carried by private citizens in Minnesota runs counter to the League of Women Voters' national and state positions, and, more importantly, would pose a severe threat to the public's health and safety.

With more loaded handguns at the ready, volatile situations can more easily turn deadly. We need fewer gun deaths, not more. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota therefore strongly opposes weakening current permit-to-carry laws.

Mary Lewis Grow

Lynne Westphal  
Firearms Portfolio for the LWVMN



**NOW**

M M I N N N E E S S O O T T A A

5590 Rice Street  
Spartanburg, Mississippi 55103  
Phone 612-224-5445  
Fax 612-282-9417

DATE: APRIL 21, 1994

## THE NATIONAL ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

If you need more information, call Mary Lewis Grow (507) 645-5378 or Lynn Westphal 612-941-8493.



THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

April 22, 1994

The Honorable Tim Penny  
436 Cannon House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Penny:

As President of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, I speak for Leagues all across the state in urging your support for HR 3527, the ban on sale and possession of assault rifles. Both the League of Women Voters of the United States and our Minnesota League have taken a strong position in favor of restricting such weapons.

National League's position on firearms reads, in part: "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens." Our state position calls explicitly for a "ban on the manufacture, sale and importation of assault weapons and assault weapon parts."

The issue of banning assault rifles is also one, we believe, of responsive government. The overwhelming majority of voters do not want these lethal weapons to be part of private arsenals. It is time to heed the public's interest rather than the special interest.

Sincerely,

Kay Erickson  
President

KE/cl





# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

April 22, 1994

The Honorable David Minge  
1508 Longworth House Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Minge:

As President of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, I speak for Leagues all across the state in urging your support for HR 3527, the ban on sale and possession of assault rifles. Both the League of Women Voters of the United States and our Minnesota League have taken a strong position in favor of restricting such weapons.

National League's position on firearms reads, in part: "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens." Our state position calls explicitly for a "ban on the manufacture, sale and importation of assault weapons and assault weapon parts."

The issue of banning assault rifles is also one, we believe, of responsive government. The overwhelming majority of voters do not want these lethal weapons to be part of private arsenals. It is time to heed the public's interest rather than the special interest.

Sincerely,

Kay Erickson  
President

KE/cl



THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

April 22, 1994

The Honorable Jim Ramstad  
322 Cannon House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Ramstad:

As President of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, I speak for Leagues all across the state in urging your support for HR 3527, the ban on sale and possession of assault rifles. Both the League of Women Voters of the United States and our Minnesota League have taken a strong position in favor of restricting such weapons.

National League's position on firearms reads, in part: "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens." Our state position calls explicitly for a "ban on the manufacture, sale and importation of assault weapons and assault weapon parts."

The issue of banning assault rifles is also one, we believe, of responsive government. The overwhelming majority of voters do not want these lethal weapons to be part of private arsenals. It is time to heed the public's interest rather than the special interest.

Sincerely,

Kay Erickson  
President

KE/cl

ACTION



THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

553 Rte. 55  
South Park, Milwaukee 53203  
Phone 642-2445  
Fax 642-292417

TO: LOCAL LEAGUE PRESIDENTS AND ACTION CHAIRS

FROM: LYNNE WESTPHAL, LWVMN FIREARMS LOBBYIST

RE: ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

DATE: APRIL 21, 1994

LWVUS Position: Protect the health and safety of citizens by limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons...support the allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.

#### THE NATIONAL ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

We are only short 15 votes in the House for passage of a national ban on military style assault weapons! The Senate version has already passed thanks to Senator Diane Feinstein. As soon as the House has finished with the Crime Bill, they will consider this very important bill.

Please make calls to your representatives today and ask them to support the assault weapons ban HR 3527. European nations have banned these weapons. Why can't we?

The following Congressmen have been identified as swing votes. It is imperative that they hear from us now!

First District Congressman Tim Penny,	1-800-862-8632 (Owatonna)
	1-202-225-2472 (Wash. D.C.)
2nd Dist Congressman David Minge	1-612-269-9311 (Montevideo)
	1-202-226-2331 (Wash. D.C.)
3rd Dist. Congressman Jim Ramstad	1-612-881-4600 (Bloomington)
	1-202-225-2871 (Wash, D.C.)

If you need more information, call Mary Lewis Grow (507) 645-5378 or Lynn Westphal 612-941-8493.

Kay - Mary Lewis Grow would like a letter from you to each of the 3 Congressmen on this issue. She feels it would be most helpful. I am sure we have until Monday to do it.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA  
550 RICE STREET, ST. PAUL, MN 55103  
612/224-5445 FAX 612/292-9417  
E-MAIL: lwvmn@freenet.msp.mn.us  
<http://freenet.msp.mn.us/ip/pol/lwvmn>

---

## M E M O R A N D U M

---

**DATE:** 04/17/97  
**TO:** Members of Minnesota State Senate  
**FROM:** Lynne Westphal, LWVMN Firearms Lobbyist  
**RE:** SF 792, Legislation re: carrying a concealed we

CCW

The gun lobby's proposal to weaken the process to obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon (CCW) is once again on the legislative agenda (SF 792, Pat Pariseau, R - Farmington).

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is asking you to **vote against any attempt to pass SF 792 as a bill or any amendment pertaining to weakening laws about carrying a concealed weapon** for the following reasons:

1. The LWVMN believes that the proliferation of handguns is a threat to public safety. We support restrictions on the sale, possession and use of firearms by private parties in Minnesota. (This position was reached after a statewide study and consensus by our members in 1989).
2. During the past eight years, we have supported legislative bills and statewide educational programs which we believed would help prevent gun violence in our Minnesota communities. In our experience, gun violence prevention continues to be undermined by attempts to weaken the laws already in place so that more guns might be marketed and sold in Minnesota.
3. This year, the gun manufacturers and sellers have again targeted Minnesota.
4. Those who support SF 792 are attempting to appeal to fears of women about their safety. Even though the current bill does not mention gender, Senator Pariseau stated on April 4, 1997 on MPR that it is a woman's right to carry a concealed weapon and that is why we need her version of the CCW bill.

The LWVMN is particularly interested in this current campaign to reach women. Considering our 77 year history in the area of women's rights, we wish to state the following:

- A. With the present Minnesota laws, without any weakening amendments, women can already obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon.
  - B. As Dr. David Kennedy of Harvard University's Boston Gun Project on his February 21 visit to the Minnesota legislature stated, gangs are already using young women to buy handguns. Now is not the time to weaken the CCW laws on the books.
-



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA  
550 RICE STREET, ST. PAUL, MN 55103  
612/224-5445 FAX 612/292-9417  
E-MAIL: lwvmn@freenet.msp.mn.us  
<http://freenet.msp.mn.us/ip/pol/lwvmn>

---

## M E M O R A N D U M

---

**DATE:** 04/17/97  
**TO:** Members of Minnesota State Senate  
**FROM:** Lynne Westphal, LWVMN Firearms Lobbyist  
**RE:** SF 792, Legislation re: carrying a concealed weapon

The gun lobby's proposal to weaken the process to obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon (CCW) is once again on the legislative agenda (SF 792, Pat Pariseau, R - Farmington).

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is asking you to **vote against any attempt to pass SF 792 as a bill or any amendment pertaining to weakening laws about carrying a concealed weapon** for the following reasons:

1. The LWVMN believes that the proliferation of handguns is a threat to public safety. We support restrictions on the sale, possession and use of firearms by private parties in Minnesota. (This position was reached after a statewide study and consensus by our members in 1989).
2. During the past eight years, we have supported legislative bills and statewide educational programs which we believed would help prevent gun violence in our Minnesota communities. In our experience, gun violence prevention continues to be undermined by attempts to weaken the laws already in place so that more guns might be marketed and sold in Minnesota.
3. This year, the gun manufacturers and sellers have again targeted Minnesota.
4. Those who support SF 792 are attempting to appeal to fears of women about their safety. Even though the current bill does not mention gender, Senator Pariseau stated on April 4, 1997 on MPR that it is a woman's right to carry a concealed weapon and that is why we need her version of the CCW bill.

The LWVMN is particularly interested in this current campaign to reach women. Considering our 77 year history in the area of women's rights, we wish to state the following:

- A. With the present Minnesota laws, without any weakening amendments, women can already obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon.
  - B. As Dr. David Kennedy of Harvard University's Boston Gun Project on his February 21 visit to the Minnesota legislature stated, gangs are already using young women to buy handguns. Now is not the time to weaken the CCW laws on the books.
-

- C. Women are advised **not** to carry a concealed weapon by the following professional organizations: MN Police Chiefs, MN Peace Officers Association, MN Public Health Association, MN Medical Association and MN Emergency Room Physicians Association.
- D. Dr. James McCord of the MN Pediatrics Academy and past treasurer of Citizen's for a Safer Minnesota confirms the fact that more children than ever are showing up in Minnesota hospitals with gun shot wounds. More of Minnesota's children are dying from gun shot wounds that are caused by handguns.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota respectfully requests that you, as a trusted elected official, **vote in favor of children's safety on this issue and vote against any attempt to weaken present CCW laws**, in particular, SF 792 or any related amendment.

*Copied for Frisch, Westphal,  
Duffy*

RECEIVED APR 23 1997



## Senate

State of Minnesota

**ROY TERWILLIGER**

Assistant Minority Leader  
115 State Office Building  
100 Constitution Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1206  
(612) 296-6238  
Home:  
6512 Navaho Trail  
Edina, MN 55439  
(612) 941-8258

April 23, 1997

Lynne Westphal  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
550 Rice Street  
St. Paul, MN 55103

Dear Lynne:

Many thanks for your memo of April 17, 1997, in which you outlined the League's opposition to S.F. 792 or to any attempt to weaken the concealed weapon carry laws.

I agree with you and the League. I do oppose this legislation and will oppose any attempt to weaken our present law. While I believe the author's have good intentions for offering this bill, I believe the consequences for public safety would be negative.

Thank you for sharing the League's position with me; I do appreciate it. You can count on my support.

Sincerely,

ROY TERWILLIGER  
State Senator

RT:pr



Recycled Paper  
20% Post-  
Consumer Fiber

**COMMITTEES:** Finance • Governmental Operations and Veterans • Health Care • Rules •  
Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement • Council on Black Minnesotans  
**SERVING:** Eden Prairie • Edina





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA  
550 RICE STREET, ST. PAUL, MN 55103  
612/224-5445 FAX 612/292-9417  
E-MAIL: lwvmn@freenet.msp.mn.us  
<http://freenet.msp.mn.us/ip/pol/lwvmn>

---

## M E M O R A N D U M

---

**DATE:** 04/17/97  
**TO:** Members of Minnesota State Senate  
**FROM:** Lynne Westphal, LWVMN Firearms Lobbyist  
**RE:** SF 792, Legislation re: carrying a concealed weapon

The gun lobby's proposal to weaken the process to obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon (CCW) is once again on the legislative agenda (SF 792, Pat Pariseau, R - Farmington).

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is asking you to **vote against any attempt to pass SF 792 as a bill or any amendment pertaining to weakening laws about carrying a concealed weapon** for the following reasons:

1. The LWVMN believes that the proliferation of handguns is a threat to public safety. We support restrictions on the sale, possession and use of firearms by private parties in Minnesota. (This position was reached after a statewide study and consensus by our members in 1989).
2. During the past eight years, we have supported legislative bills and statewide educational programs which we believed would help prevent gun violence in our Minnesota communities. In our experience, gun violence prevention continues to be undermined by attempts to weaken the laws already in place so that more guns might be marketed and sold in Minnesota.
3. This year, the gun manufacturers and sellers have again targeted Minnesota.
4. Those who support SF 792 are attempting to appeal to fears of women about their safety. Even though the current bill does not mention gender, Senator Pariseau stated on April 4, 1997 on MPR that it is a woman's right to carry a concealed weapon and that is why we need her version of the CCW bill.

The LWVMN is particularly interested in this current campaign to reach women. Considering our 77 year history in the area of women's rights, we wish to state the following:

- A. With the present Minnesota laws, without any weakening amendments, women can already obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon.
  - B. As Dr. David Kennedy of Harvard University's Boston Gun Project on his February 21 visit to the Minnesota legislature stated, gangs are already using young women to buy handguns. Now is not the time to weaken the CCW laws on the books.
-



- C. Women are advised **not** to carry a concealed weapon by the following professional organizations: MN Police Chiefs, MN Peace Officers Association, MN Public Health Association, MN Medical Association and MN Emergency Room Physicians Association.
- D. Dr. James McCord of the MN Pediatrics Academy and past treasurer of Citizen's for a Safer Minnesota confirms the fact that more children than ever are showing up in Minnesota hospitals with gun shot wounds. More of Minnesota's children are dying from gun shot wounds that are caused by handguns.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota respectfully requests that you, as a trusted elected official, **vote in favor of children's safety on this issue and vote against any attempt to weaken present CCW laws**, in particular, SF 792 or any related amendment.



THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

March 15, 1996

Representative Wesley J. Skoglund  
477 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Skoglund:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has issued the following statement regarding the carrying of concealed weapons as public policy:

"The League of Women Voters of Minnesota strongly believes that legislation allowing the carrying of concealed weapons is not the path to a safer Minnesota. It would be a tragic irony for the Legislature to make guns and bullets even more prevalent on our streets following Minnesota's bloodiest year yet in terms of gun deaths. We call on wiser heads to prevail in preventing legislative passage of this measure."

Thank you so much for your support in this area.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Anne Borgen'.

Anne Borgen, President  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

AB/mm



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA  
550 RICE STREET, ST. PAUL, MN 55103  
612/224-5445 FAX 612/292-9417  
E-MAIL lwvmn@freenet.msp.mn.us  
<http://freenet.msp.mn.us/ip/pol/lwvmn>

---

## M E M O R A N D U M

---

DATE: May 10, 1996  
TO: Fellow Board Members  
FROM: Carol Frisch  
RE: Student Pledge against Gun Violence

The Action Committee on May 6 approved a request from lobbyists Mary Lewis Grow and Lynne Westphal that LWVMN write a letter of support for the attached Senate Resolution sponsored by Senators Bill Bradley, Paul Wellstone, and Arlen Specter calling for a Day of National Concern about Young People and Gun Violence and for the national distribution of a Student Pledge containing a voluntary promise (from middle through high school students) that they will:

- never carry a gun to school
- never resolve a dispute with a gun
- try to use their influence with their friends to keep them from resolving disputes with guns.

The Action Committee proposes that:

- a letter of support for this effort be addressed to the sponsors of the resolution;
- LWVMN convention delegates circulate the letter of support and Senate Resolution to State League presidents at the National Convention.

Additionally, I am proposing that:

- the letter be sent to Mary Brooks, LWVUS Advocacy Department, (as advised by LWVUS Board Member Pat Brady, Action Chair) with a request for LWVUS to write a letter of support as well.

The LWVMN Executive Committee will be acting on this proposal before the delegation leaves for the Convention. Please address your concerns or opinions on the issue to Anne or Sally by May 16th.

## Day of National Concern

### STUDENT PLEDGE AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

What is it? A national observance giving students throughout the country a chance to sign a voluntary promise that they will:

- \* never carry a gun to school
- \* never resolve a dispute with a gun
- \* try to use their influence with their friends to keep them from resolving disputes with guns.

The Pledge will be followed by an acknowledgement of the importance of individual decisions, multiplied.

When is it? The Day of National Concern about Young People and Gun Violence and national distribution of the Student Pledge will take place on October 10, 1996. The initiative will be announced in May of 1996.

Who will participate? Every student in the country, from middle school through high school, should be given a copy of the Pledge on October 10. Schools and other community institutions such as churches and synagogues can use the weeks leading up to distribution of the Pledge to talk about the power that young people have to reverse the violence that is claiming so many lives. Every school and community will be free to create their own activities around distribution of the Pledge.

Every person in the country concerned about the toll of gun violence on our young can participate in this event--by organizing community events for the distribution of the Pledge, by making sure that their own local schools are distributing the Pledge, and by using the Pledge as a vehicle for letting young people know about our concern for them and our desire to see them grow up in safety.

Why a national observance? Why not deal with the issue on a school-by-school, town-by-town basis? The Day of Concern will empower young people to see themselves as part of a large national observance and understand that they really can reverse the tide of violence and diminish one of the greatest threats to their health and safety.

There is power in large numbers acting together. While it is very valuable for students to study conflict resolution in their classrooms, they need to know that there will be millions of other young people making the same decisions they are at the same time. If they take the Pledge--and mean it--others will too.

The dialogue surrounding the Day of National Concern and distribution of the Pledge can bring Americans together in a kind of national town meeting united in our concern for our young people.

Who is sponsoring this national observance? Senators Bill Bradley, Paul Wellstone, and Arlen Specter are sponsoring a Senate Resolution calling for the Day of National Concern about Young People and Gun Violence and national distribution of the Student Pledge. A number of organizations, public and private, will be supporting their efforts.

MR. BRADLEY, along with MR. WELLSTONE and MR. SPECTER submitted the following resolution: which was \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION

To designate \_\_\_\_\_, 1996, as the "Day of National Concern about Young People and Gun Violence."

WHEREAS, violent crime in American society has escalated in recent years, and nowhere is the severe increase in violent crime greater than among juveniles;

WHEREAS, between 1983 and 1992, juvenile arrest rates for murder skyrocketed 128%;

WHEREAS, in 1992, more than six children were murdered each day;

WHEREAS, America's young people are this country's most important resource, and we, as a society, have a vested interest in helping children survive, free from fear and violence, into healthy adulthood;

WHEREAS, American young people can, by taking individual and collective responsibility for their own decisions and actions, help chart a new and less violent direction for the entire country;

WHEREAS, American school children will be invited to take part in a national observance involving millions of their fellow students, and will therefore be empowered to see themselves as significant agents of positive social change;

WHEREAS, this observance will give students the opportunity to make a solemn decision about their future by voluntarily signing a pledge promising that they a) will never take a gun to school, b) will never use a gun to resolve a dispute, and c) will use their influence to keep friends from using a gun to settle disputes;

Resolved, that the Senate designate \_\_\_\_\_, 1996 as the "Day of National Concern About Young People and Gun Violence." The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the school children of the United States to observe this day with appropriate activity.

P L E D G E

On this day of national concern about young people and gun violence, I pledge that:

- \* I will never bring a gun to school;
- \* I will never use a gun to settle a dispute;
- \* I will use my influence with my friends to keep them from using guns to settle disputes.

My individual choices and actions, when multiplied by those young people throughout the country, will make a difference. Together, by honoring this pledge, we can reverse the violence and grow up in safety.

Student name:

Grade level:

School name:

School address:

Signature;





THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

January 22, 1996

Attorney General Hubert Humphrey III  
State Capitol Building  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Attorney General Humphrey:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota wishes to express its support of your recent criminal justice proposals related to gun violence. Our members advocate restrictions on the sale, possession and use of firearms by private parties on the statewide level in Minnesota.

We consider your recommendations for mandatory consecutive sentences, prohibition on handgun possession by convicted felons, increased penalties for unlicensed possession, and raising the age limit for ownership to be important steps toward achieving our objectives.

Thank you for your efforts toward protection of the health and safety of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Anne Borgen  
President

Confidential.....Confidential.....Confidential

**Minnesota Attorney General  
Criminal Justice Proposals for Discussion  
with the Gun Violence Action Team  
January 8, 1996**

**GUN PROPOSALS**

1. **Use - Mandatory Consecutive Sentences**  
Revise mandatory minimum sentence for use of a firearm in the commission of another offense to provide that the minimum sentence be consecutive to that for the original offense.
2. **Possession**
  - a. **Firearm in possession by a felon**  
Permanently prohibit handgun possession by felons who convicted of crimes of violence, even after other civil rights are restored at 10 years from the execution of sentence.
  - b. **Carrying Illegal Weapons**  
Increase penalty for carrying weapons without a license from a gross misdemeanor to a felony.
3. **Ownership**  
Raise the age for handgun ownership from 18 to 21 (exemptions: ROTC, military and police training).
4. **Technical amendments**



5/10/95

TO: LWVMN LEAGUE PRESIDENTS, ACTION CHAIRS AND TEN MINUTE  
ACTIVISTS IN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ONE

FROM: SUSAN SIMMONDS, VICE PRESIDENT/ACTION  
LYNNE WESTPHAL, FIREARMS LOBBYIST 612/941-8493

RE: GUN CONTROL

**LWVUS Position:** protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons.

**LWVMN Position:** Action to support restrictions on the sale, use, and possession of firearms in the State of Minnesota.

#### STOP THE GUN VIOLENCE

On May 17, Handgun Control, Inc. will present Representative Gil Gutknecht with this pledge:

*Congressional Pledge: "I, the undersigned member of the United States House of Representatives, pledge that I will oppose any legislation which would repeal or weaken the ban on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines enacted in 1994."*

Will he sign it? We need your help to put pressure on Congressman Gutknecht. He has been identified as one who will not support gun control laws even though the majority of his constituents want the Assault Weapons Ban to remain in place.

Here's what you can do:

1. Call Rep. Gutknecht's office. Urge him to sign the pledge to support the Assault Weapons Ban.  
Rochester office: 507/252-9841;  
Washington: 202/225-2472 or 1-800/862-8632
2. Write a letter to your local newspaper (sample included)
3. Encourage others to put the pressure on.

Is the ban working? Yes. On September 14, 1994, domestic gun manufacturers stopped production on semi-automatic assault weapons and ammunition clips holding more than ten rounds. Imports of assault weapons, not already banned by Presidents Bush and Clinton, were also halted.

# ACTION



THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS  
MINNESOTA

550 Rice Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103  
Phone 612-224-5445  
Fax 612-292-9417

TO: LOCAL LEAGUE PRESIDENTS AND ACTION CHAIRS

FROM: LYNNE WESTPHAL, LWVMN FIREARMS LOBBYIST

RE: ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

DATE: APRIL 21, 1994

LWVUS Position: Protect the health and safety of citizens by limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons...support the allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.

## THE NATIONAL ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

We are only short 15 votes in the House for passage of a national ban on military style assault weapons! The Senate version has already passed thanks to Senator Diane Feinstein. As soon as the House has finished with the Crime Bill, they will consider this very important bill.

Please make calls to your representatives today and ask them to support the assault weapons ban HR 3527. European nations have banned these weapons. Why can't we?

The following Congressmen have been identified as swing votes. It is imperative that they hear from us now!

First District Congressman Tim Penny, 1-800-862-8632 (Owatonna)  
1-202-225-2472 (Wash. D.C.)  
2nd Dist Congressman David Minge 1-612-269-9311 (Montevideo)  
1-202-226-2331 (Wash. D.C.)  
3rd Dist. Congressman Jim Ramstad 1-612-881-4600 (Bloomington)  
1-202-225-2871 (Wash, D.C.)

If you need more information, call Mary Lewis Grow (507) 645-5378 or Lynn Westphal 612-941-8493.

1919  
A VOICE  
FOR CITIZENS,  
A FORCE  
FOR CHANGE  
1994

# ACTION



THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS  
MINNESOTA

550 Rice Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103  
Phone 612-224-5445  
Fax 612-292-9417

TO: LOCAL LEAGUE PRESIDENTS AND ACTION CHAIRS

FROM: MARY LEWIS GROW, LWVMN LOBBYIST (507/645-5378)

RE: FIREARMS LEGISLATION

DATE: APRIL 12, 1994

LWVUS Position: Protect the health and safety of citizens by limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons...support the allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.

LWVMN Position: Action to support restrictions on the sale, use and possession of firearms by private parties in the State of Minnesota.

We expect a vote on our legislation (specified below) later this week in the Senate. Support from the Senators listed will be crucial to passage.

SF 2226 (Spear, DFL, Mpls) Metropolitan Firearms Bill prohibits the sale and possession of semi-automatic, military-style assault weapons in the seven-county metropolitan area and establishes a requirement that individuals licensed by the federal government to sell firearms or ammunition obtain a newly-created metropolitan firearms dealer license. Standards for metropolitan dealers will be stricter than federal standards and a more comprehensive background check performed. Dealers must provide a copy of their tax returns or sign an affidavit they have not sold any guns in the last year.

SF 2115 (Kelly, DFL St. Paul) Criminal Penalties for Illegal Second Party Transfer increases the penalty for furnishing a weapon to a minor. It also extends Minnesota's seven-day waiting period and background check law (that applies to dealer sales of handguns and assault weapons) to private sales or gifts of handguns and assault weapons. If an individual transfers a handgun or assault weapon to another individual without submitting the transferee's name for a background check and waiting period, and the transferee later uses the gun in a crime, the transferrer is guilty of a felony.

The NRA is generating a flood of phone calls to legislators and not just those currently hearing our bills in committee. PLEASE HELP by calling or writing your legislator in support of the above legislation and ask others to do the same

Skip Finn - Bemidji Area League, Cass Lake/Walker League  
Keith Langseth - Moorhead Area, Wilkin County Leagues  
Sheila Kiscaden - Rochester League  
Steve Morse - Winona State Unit  
Jim Metzen - St. Paul League  
Phil Riveness - Bloomington League  
Bill Belanger - Bloomington League  
Roy Terwilliger - Edina League  
Ed Oliver - South Tonka League  
Jane Krentz - St. Croix Valley League  
Len Price - Woodbury/Cottage Grove LWV

1919  
A VOICE  
FOR CITIZENS,  
A FORCE  
FOR CHANGE  
1994



# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103  
PHONE (612) 224-5445

# action

## FIREARMS

Lynn Westphal (612) 941-8493

Mary Lewis Grow (507) 654-5378

November 1, 1993

TO: LOCAL LEAGUE PRESIDENTS - THIRD DISTRICT  
10-MINUTE ACTIVISTS

FROM: L. WESTPHAL AND M. L. GROW

LWVUS Position: Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons.

LWVMN Position: Action to support restrictions on the sale, possession and use of firearms by private parties in the State of Minnesota.

RE: National Rifle Association's Amendments to the Brady Bill.

Thank you so much for calling your representatives and senators concerning your support of the Brady Bill (HR 1025 SF 414).

On the House side of this issue the NRA is pushing for several weakening amendments. Unfortunately, Rep. Jim Ramstad (3rd District MN) is sponsoring an amendment which would weaken if not kill the Brady Bill. In the past, Congressman Ramstad has said that he will vote for the Brady Bill, but if the NRA's National Computer Background Check passes first it will kill the Brady Bill. NRA amendments such as the McCollum amendments will also weaken or kill the Brady Bill.

The LWVMN and LWVUS would like to see the Brady Bill pass because:

1. It allows a cooling off period. (The NRA legislation does not.)
2. It includes background check on handguns and rifles and shotguns.  
  (The NRA legislation does not.)
3. The Brady Bill now includes a national computer background check.
4. The Brady bill includes funding for the computer background check.  
  (The NRA legislation does not.)

PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR LEAGUERS TO CALL REP. JIM RAMSTAD AND ASK HIM TO VOTE FOR THE BRADY BILL WHICH NOW INCLUDES THE INSTANT BACKGROUND CHECK AND TO NOT PUSH FOR ANY AMENDMENTS WHICH WOULD WEAKEN ~~OF~~ KILL THE BRADY BILL.

Rep Jim Ramstad local phone number: (612) 881-4600  
Washington " (202) 225-2871

8120 Penn So. 55431  
322 Cannon House Off. Bldg.  
Washington D. C. 20515



# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

Testimony on HF 681 presented to the  
House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Family Law  
by Kay Erickson, President  
March 26, 1993

I am Kay Erickson, President, of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. I am here on behalf of the more than 2,600 League members and friends throughout the state and in support of the legislation sought by Citizens for a Safer Minnesota, a statewide coalition of which League is a part.

In 1990 the national League of Women Voters took a position that called for protecting "the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons." Earlier that same year, we came to a state consensus on firearms regulation, following a major study that was distributed and debated in local Leagues throughout Minnesota. One of the specific points to come out of our League study on Firearms was the recommendation to allow "local municipalities to regulate ownership and possession of firearms and ammunition more strictly than state law allows."

While the League of Women Voters would, therefore, recommend a statewide repeal of the 1985 Preemptive Gun Law, we believe that the legislation before you is an extremely important step in the right direction. It seems crucial to give those cities suffering most acutely from gun violence the ability to adopt the measures that their civic leaders and police chiefs tell us they need.

Other gun legislation before you this session calls for stiffer penalties for crimes committed with firearms. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports "stiffer and/or mandatory penalties for people who commit crimes with firearms," but we believe it is vitally important to look at measures that will prevent violence and not merely punish it after it has occurred.

Allowing the Twin Cities to regulate the sale and possession of assault rifles and the carrying of loaded firearms in public places and by juveniles will help keep instruments of violence off of our largest cities' streets.

Since passage of the Preemptive Gun Law in 1985, gun violence in the Twin Cities has increased dramatically. No one can promise an overnight reversal of this trend, but it is clear that "business as usual" isn't working and there is an urgent need to try new remedies.

In the interests of public safety and the prevention of violence, I urge you to pass HF 681 to allow cities in the seven county metropolitan area to enact firearms control ordinances that are stronger than current state law. Thank you.





## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

Testimony on SF 1063 presented to the  
Senate Crime Prevention Committee  
by Susan Simmonds, Vice President for Action  
March 25, 1993

I am Susan Simmonds, Vice President for Action, of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. I am here on behalf of the more than 3,000 League members and friends throughout the state and in support of the legislation sought by Citizens for a Safer Minnesota, a statewide coalition of which League is a part.

In 1990 the national League of Women Voters took a position that called for protecting "the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons." Earlier that same year, we came to a state consensus on firearms regulation, following a major study that was distributed and debated in local Leagues throughout Minnesota. One of the specific points to come out of our League study on Firearms was the recommendation to allow "local municipalities to regulate ownership and possession of firearms and ammunition more strictly than state law allows."

While the League of Women Voters would, therefore, recommend a statewide repeal of the 1985 Preemptive Gun Law, we believe that the legislation before you is an extremely important step in the right direction. It seems crucial to give those cities suffering most acutely from gun violence the ability to adopt the measures that their civic leaders and police chiefs tell us they need. This is not merely a matter of common sense. It is also a principle supported by the overwhelming majority of Minnesota voters. (The Minnesota Poll of March 12th of this year indicates that 80% of those polled affirmed that Minneapolis and St. Paul should be given the ability to pass tougher firearms restrictions. A CNN/Gallup poll published on March 17th of this year reveals that even among gun owners -- nationwide -- nearly 60% favor stricter firearms regulations.

The League of Women Voters does not take the position that the majority is always right, but in this case, public opinion confirms the views of law enforcement and health care professionals who see the rising tide of gun violence as a national health emergency.

Other gun legislation before you this session calls for stiffer penalties for crimes committed with firearms. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports "stiffer and/or mandatory penalties for people who commit crimes with firearms," but we believe it is vitally important to look at measures that will prevent violence and not merely punish it after it has occurred.

Allowing the Twin Cities to regulate the sale and possession of assault rifles and the carrying of loaded firearms in public places and by juveniles will help keep instruments of violence off of our largest cities' streets.

Since passage of the Preemptive Gun Law in 1985, gun violence in the Twin Cities has increased dramatically. No one can promise an overnight reversal of this trend, but it is clear that "business as usual" isn't working and there is an urgent need to try new remedies.

In the interests of public safety and the prevention of violence, and out of our concern for responsive government more attuned to voters than well-financed special interests, I urge you to pass SF 1063 creating Exceptions to the State Preemptive Gun Law. Thank you!



THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

March 2, 1993

The Honorable Kathleen Vellenga  
House of Representatives  
509 State Office Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Ms. Vellenga:

I am writing to express the support of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota for the legislation you are sponsoring, HF 406, the Child Accident Prevention Bill. The League of Women Voters is part of the statewide coalition, Citizens for a Safer Minnesota, whose primary concern is gun violence.

Requiring adults to lock up their loaded firearms is a common-sense measure that will contribute to the safety of Minnesota's children. It is also reasonable to believe that fewer children will come to school with firearms if guns in homes have been carefully secured.

Thank you for your efforts to protect Minnesota's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kay Erickson'.

Kay Erickson  
President

KE/rk



March 1, 1993

3/1  
suggested a  
phone  
alert -  
StH

TO: Susan Simmond, LWVMN Action

FROM: Lynne Westphal, LWVMN Firearms (941-8493)

RE: ACTION ALERT FOR CHILD ACCIDENT PROTECTION GUN BILL (HF 406)

On Wednesday, March 3rd at 10:00 am, the CHILD ACCIDENT PROTECTION GUN BILL (HF 406 - Vallenga) is scheduled to be heard in the subcommittee on Criminal Justice & Family Law/JUDICIARY.

HF 406 would require gun owners who store their guns loaded to keep them locked up if they have reason to believe that children could have access to the weapon(s). Also, gun shops must post a warning about the law and offer a locking device for sale when selling a gun.

As sane as this bill seems, the vote in this committee is too close to call. It is most important that those of you who live in the following districts call your legislator as it is these legislators who will determine if this bill passes or fails in committee.

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>LEGISLATOR</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
40B	Kathleen Blatz (Bloomington)	296-4218
47B	Phil Carruthers (Brooklyn Park/Ctr) DFL	296-3709
51A	Mike Delmont (Lexington) DFL	296-4226
56A	Mark Holsten (Stillwater) IR	296-3018
33B	Warren Limmer (Maple Grove) IR	296-5502
8A	Mary Murphy (Hermantown) DFL	296-2676
37B	Bill Macklin (Lakeville) IR	296-6926
57A	Walt Perl (Woodbury) DFL	296-7807
39A	Thomas Pugh (S. St. Paul) DFL	296-6828
51B	Doug Swenson (Forest Lake) IR	296-4124

Is it too much to ask people with loaded weapons to keep them secured and out of the hands of children? Your phone calls are crucial. Thank you for taking prompt action.

Lynne Westphal, LWVMN Firearms Study and Action (941-8493)

\*\*ATTENTION FOLLOWING LEAGUES: BLOOMINGTON, BROOKLYN CENTER, BROOKPARK/OSSEO/MAPLE GROVE, DULUTH, MAHTOMEDI AREA, N.DAKOTA CTY., ST.CROIX VALLEY, SCOTT COUNTY, WOODBURY COTTAGE GROVE