

## **PROTECTING MINNESOTA WOMEN BY REDUCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND GUN VIOLENCE**

The number of domestic violence deaths in Minnesota [rose dramatically in 2013](#), more than doubling 2012 numbers. Legislation introduced by Representative Dan Schoen (HF 3238) and Senator Ron Latz (SF 2639) will save lives and protect daughters, mothers and sisters from domestic abusers. This legislation will:

### **Keep rifles and shotguns—not just handguns—out of the hands of domestic abusers:**

- Nearly one in five domestic violence gun murders in the U.S. is committed with a shotgun or rifle.
- Although Minnesota law prohibits abusers convicted of domestic assault from buying or possessing handguns for a period of three years, these criminals are not prohibited from buying or possessing assault weapons or other shotguns or rifles.
- This bill would close this loophole and prohibit criminals convicted of domestic assault from possessing all guns, including rifles and shotguns.

### **Disarm convicted stalkers:**

- A study of incidents in 10 major U.S. cities found that nearly [9 in 10 attempted murders of women involved at least one incident of stalking](#) in the year before the attempted murder.
- Minnesota prohibits convicted stalkers from possessing guns for a period of three years after the conviction, regardless of whether a gun was used in the commission of the crime. But Minnesota law only requires criminals to surrender guns *used in the commission* of the stalking crime.
- This bill would protect stalking victims by requiring the surrender of all guns possessed by a criminal prohibited due to a stalking conviction, regardless of whether a gun was used in the crime.

### **Disarm domestic abusers:**

- People with a history of committing domestic violence are [more likely to subsequently murder an intimate partner](#), and the presence of a gun in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide for women by 500 percent.
- The bill would require that criminals who are prohibited from possessing guns due to a domestic assault conviction relinquish all guns in their possession.

### **Protect victims who take out domestic violence protective orders against their abusers:**

- According to 2010 study published by the Journal of Injury Prevention, state laws restricting access to firearms for those under domestic violence restraining orders were associated with a 25% reduction in intimate partner gun deaths.
- Unlike federal law, Minnesota state law does not prohibit gun possession by people subject to domestic violence protective orders.
- This bill would make it a state crime for domestic abusers subject to protective orders to purchase or possess guns and would require that these prohibited people

surrender guns in their possession, making it easier for state and local law enforcement to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous abusers.