

My name is Leah Kondes, and I lead the Minneapolis local group of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. More importantly, I am the mother of a child who was at the mall for one of their shootings and the state fair for one of their shootings.

I am here today in opposition to House File Twenty-Five Thirty-Two, which could eliminate funding for community violence intervention – or CVI - programs.

As the saying goes, this bill is penny-wise and pound foolish.

The legislation aims to reallocate \$42 million from the community crime and violence prevention account to the state general fund.

Meanwhile, injuries and deaths stemming from gun violence are estimated to cost Minnesota around \$6.6 billion annually.

CVI programs are proven to reduce gunshot wounds and deaths in the neighborhoods most impacted by gun violence. To date, [41 states](#) dedicate funding to these programs.

The presence of violence in communities is associated with chronic or acute conditions, such as poor mental health, reduced cognitive functioning for children, and inequity in housing, economic opportunity, and educational attainment.

These programs play a crucial role in combating gun violence and need to be properly funded and sustained.

Moms Demand Action has had the privilege of partnering with many community-based partners to reduce gun violence, including the Next Step Program at Hennepin Healthcare, T.O.U.C.H Outreach and Restoration Incorporated.

I urge lawmakers to reject this short-sighted proposal. Thank you.