

Urge PA's congress to pass HB1075 & SB90

Learn: What would these bills do? Legalize Extreme Risk Protection Orders to reduce gun violence

What is it?

An Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) empowers families members and law enforcement officers to temporarily remove a person's access to firearms when they are believed to be likely to harm themselves or others.

Intervening in Suicide Attempts

ERPO allows for the temporary removal of the most lethal means of suicide from the situation, saving lives of those deemed at risk by a civil judge. Research on Connecticut's ERPO found that the populations served are at an elevated risk of dying by suicide.

Preventing Mass Shootings

People who may be at high risk of dangerous behaviors may have access to firearms. ERPOs allow for family and concerned law enforcement to take action to prevent tragedy. In 2018, the Parkland, FL shooter had been visited by local police multiple times and posted on social media about planning a school shooting, but law enforcement agents did not have the legal tools to prevent him from accessing firearms.

Empower Families and Law Enforcement

Often family members may observe warning signs of someone at risk for harming themselves or others but they do not have the legal tools to take action. ERPO gives families and law enforcement the opportunity to intervene and to protect the lives of loved ones and those in their community.

- ⊙ There are approximately 900 firearm suicides every year in Pennsylvania
- ⊙ Up to 80% of people considering suicide give some sign of their intentions
- ⊙ An FBI study of pre-attack behaviors of active shooters found that the average shooter displayed four to five observable and concerning behaviors over time
- ⊙ Following the passage of ERPO in Indiana in 2005, there were 7.5% fewer firearms related suicides over the next decade
- ⊙ Overall in Connecticut, suicides declined by 13.7% once ERPO was fully implemented

Who has it? CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, HI, IL, IN, MA, MD, NJ, NV, NY, OR, RI, VT, and D.C.

Pray:

God of peace and healing, we pray to you for an end to gun violence in our communities. This violence cannot continue. While we wish there was one simple thing to take away this suffering, we know an issue with such deep roots in our country will take energy and commitment to address. God, give us guidance as we engage different organizations and legislation that seek to reduce gun violence. May your Spirit enliven us for this work of healing you have called all of us to do. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 815, Prayer for the Human Family)

Act: Sign 2 letters - 1 for your state rep and the other for your state senator

Some important notes for your letter:

- You **MUST** include your senator or representative's name at the beginning of the letter.
- Be sure to include the bill's name depending on the chamber to which your writing:
 - House: HB1075
 - Senate: SB90
- Include your signature, name, and zip code at the end.

Date:

Dear

I am writing to ask you to support the Extreme Risk Protection Order bill,

I urge you to vote for a bill that would provide a mechanism for families and law enforcement to act on what they are observing and to petition the court for an extreme risk protection order when there is good cause to believe an individual poses an immediate threat to themselves or others.

Put simply, an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) law empowers family members or law enforcement officers to temporarily remove a person's access to firearms when they are believed to be very likely to harm themselves or others.

In 2018 Extreme Risk Protection Order legislation passed out of the House Judiciary Committee but never received a floor vote.

This year, HB 1075 and SB 90 were introduced by State Representative Todd Stephens (R) and Senator Tom Killion (R). Both bills have been referred to their respective Judiciary committees and are waiting on votes.

It's time to vote for this bill and aid individuals, communities, and law enforcement in preventing suicides, homicides and mass shootings and enhance public safety.

Sincerely and with great hope,