



Senator Ron Latz
Chair, Senate Gun Violence Prevention Working Group
Minnesota State Senate
95 University Avenue West, Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Latz and Members of the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group,

On behalf of Protect Minnesota, the only state-based nonprofit dedicated to ending gun violence and building safer communities in Minnesota, I am writing to express our strong support for several policy proposals currently under consideration by your working group. Almost 600 Minnesotans lose their lives to firearm violence every year, and these evidence-based measures will save lives, prevent tragedies, and reflect the will of the majority of Minnesotans who believe that our state can and should lead in reducing gun violence.

Specifically, we urge your support for:

- **Prohibitions on assault weapons and large-capacity magazines**, which have been consistently linked to increased lethality in mass shootings.
- **Safe storage requirements**, which are proven to reduce accidental shootings, youth suicides, and firearm theft.
- **Restrictions on ghost guns and binary triggers**, closing loopholes that allow individuals to circumvent existing firearm safety laws.
- **Repeal of state preemption of local firearm laws**, allowing communities to enact measures responsive to their unique needs and circumstances.
- **A public awareness campaign for Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs)**, so families and law enforcement know how to use this lifesaving tool before a crisis escalates.
- **Funding for the Violence Project**, ensuring continued access to high-quality, Minnesota-led research and prevention strategies.
- **Establishment of an Office of Gun Violence Prevention under the Department of Health**, to coordinate data-driven solutions and align public health resources with community-based interventions.

These measures are not abstract policy ideas—they are common-sense, practical steps that will protect families across Minnesota. Gun violence is now the leading cause of death for children and teens in the United States. Every day that we delay action is another day that preventable tragedies occur in our homes, schools, and neighborhoods.

We know from decades of experience that there is no single solution to the epidemic of gun violence. But by passing this comprehensive package, Minnesota has an opportunity to take a bold, public health-driven approach that will save lives and honor the voices of survivors, families, and communities who have been demanding action.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to this critical issue. Protect Minnesota stands ready to support the legislature in advancing these proposals and to work alongside you to ensure their successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Maggiy Emery, *Executive Director*

Protect Minnesota