



Everytown for Gun Safety
Charles Allen, Associate Director of Government Affairs
September 12, 2025

Re: Support efforts to address gun violence in Minnesota

Dear Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action we write to express our **organizational support** for the passage of several policies to address gun violence in Minnesota.

Preemption Repeal: As the result of a concerted lobbying campaign by the National Rifle Association, more than 40 states, including Minnesota, have enacted broad firearm preemption laws that specifically prohibit local governments –the people best suited to understand local crime and how to address it – from passing common-sense public safety measures designed to keep their communities safe. Minnesota’s preemption law overrides common sense by limiting cities wracked with gun violence to the identical laws that apply in rural areas where responsible gun ownership is more embedded in daily life. Minnesota should repeal its dangerous firearm preemption law and allow local governments to address gun violence in the ways appropriate to the realities in their locality.

Funding for Violence Project: Even though gun violence is the leading cause of death among children and teens and is a significant cause of death among all ages,¹ gun violence prevention received only \$46 per life lost in federal research funding from 2009 to 2018.² In comparison, at the same time, nearly four times that amount was dedicated to research on motor vehicle accidents, which kills roughly the same number of people.³ While this funding increased in recent years, currently continued federal funding for gun violence research is uncertain, it is more important than ever for states to step in and ensure that gun violence prevention research is supported.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death, Injury Mechanism & All Other Leading Causes. Data from 2023. Children and teens are defined as ages 1 to 19.

² Everytown Research analysis of federal funding data from FedREPORTER and firearm mortality data from CDC WONDER for the years 2009 to 2018.

³ Everytown Research analysis of federal funding data from FedREPORTER and mortality data from CDC WONDER for the years 2009 to 2018. Motor vehicle accidents received approximately \$162 per life lost between 2009 and 2018. This figure is an approximation and is derived from a search of FedREPORTER for projects with “motor vehicle” or “traffic accident” listed among the project terms. Also note that motor vehicle accident research may have received funding from other agencies included in FedREPORTER that were not reported here.



Establish an Office of Gun Violence Prevention: An Office of Gun Violence Prevention can serve as a central clearinghouse for implementation and management of gun safety policy generally, which would help local officials with gun safety initiatives, coordinate action across state actors, identify gaps in existing laws, and propose new legislation as appropriate. The office could take responsibility for maximizing the use of Minnesota's Extreme Risk Protection Order law, secure storage public awareness, and community violence intervention programming statewide.

ERPO Public Awareness Campaign: Minnesota's new Extreme Risk Protection Order Law will be maximally impactful if properly implemented. A key element to robust use of extreme risk laws is ensuring that the individuals most likely to apply this intervention are aware of it and know how to use it. For example, because ERPOs are an important intervention tool to help prevent suicide, tailored ERPO educational materials should be offered to physicians, mental health professionals, social workers and other staff in hospital emergency departments, crisis intervention clinics, hotline centers, urgent care clinics, and other locations where a person experiencing a suicidal crisis or their family may seek help. Information about ERPOs should also be made available to family justice centers, domestic violence service organizations, Veterans Affairs' facilities, and other providers where people experiencing domestic violence may seek assistance. Information about ERPOs should be provided to educators and school administrators so that they can help inform family members about this option when appropriate. While some jurisdictions have launched broad education campaigns to reach the general public, a more efficient use of limited resources is to focus outreach and education on first responders and other key community leaders who will be in a position to help direct individuals and family members toward an ERPO in appropriate cases.

Banning Ghost Guns: A ghost gun is a do-it-yourself, homemade firearm made from easy-to-get building blocks. These guns are made by an individual, not a federally licensed manufacturer or importer. In less than one hour, these self-made weapons become fully functioning, untraceable firearms. They are becoming a [weapon of choice](#) for violent criminals, gun traffickers, and other legally prohibited persons, as well as right-wing extremists. The country has also seen incidents of [gunfire on school grounds](#) and [unintentional shootings by children](#) involving ghost guns. Minnesota should regulate ghost guns and ensure no one can evade a background check and self-assemble an unserialized, untraceable firearm.

Banning Binary Triggers: Many firearms today are easy to customize and reconfigure with a wide range of original and aftermarket parts and accessories made by hundreds of companies. Gun owners can replace their firearms' barrels, stocks, frames, handguards, and more to adjust their weapons' performance, handling characteristics, or aesthetics. Some of these modifications, such as bump stocks and certain drop-in triggers – including binary triggers and forced-reset triggers – increase a weapon's rate of fire to mimic a fully automatic machine gun. These modifications pose a danger to the public because they could lead to significantly more victims in mass shootings. No one should be able to purchase an after-market device that, when



installed on a traditional semiautomatic firearm, allows that firearm to fire at the rate of a machine gun. Minnesota should again ban the full range of rapid-fire devices, including binary triggers.

Robust Secure Storage Requirements: Storing a gun irresponsibly at home is a risk factor when it comes to having the firearm stolen, as well as having the gun used in a self-inflicted or unintentional shooting by a child or teen. And in incidents of targeted school violence, the vast majority of the time shooters under the age of 18 got the gun from their home or the homes of friends or relatives. Locking household guns and ammunition is associated with reductions in the risk of self-inflicted and unintentional shootings by this vulnerable age group, reducing the risk of self-inflicted shootings by 78 percent and unintentional shootings by 85 percent. But despite the lifesaving effect that responsible gun storage can have, an estimated 4.6 million American children still live in homes with at least one gun that is loaded and unlocked. Minnesota law currently requires gun owners to securely store their firearms if a child is likely to access the firearm. These kinds of laws are associated with a 41% lower rate of unintentional or accidental shootings by children compared to states that have no law at all. Minnesota should enact a more robust secure storage law, which would require gun owners to securely store their firearm any time the firearm is not in use. That kind of storage law is twice as protective for our children. Full locking laws are associated with a 72% lower rate of unintentional or accidental shootings by children.⁴

Thank you for your leadership on this vital issue.

Sincerely,
Everytown for Gun Safety
Moms Demand Action
Students Demand Action

⁴ Cannon, Ashley D., Kate Reese, Paige Tetens, and Kathryn R. Fingar. "Preventable Tragedies: Findings from the #NotAnAccident Index of Unintentional Shootings by Children." *Injury Epidemiology* 10, no. 1 (2023): 52. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40621-023-00464-3>.