



STATE of MINNESOTA

Executive Department

Governor Tim Walz

Executive Order 25-12

Taking Steps to Reduce Gun Violence in Minnesota

I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following executive order:

Gun violence has plagued Minnesota for too long. We have experienced tragedy after tragedy that have left our communities afraid and heartbroken. Minnesotans are losing friends, family, and our neighbors to gun violence, which disproportionately affects BIPOC communities. The victims of senseless violence and their families deserve action to protect our communities and prevent violence from happening again.

Minnesotans widely agree that comprehensive and common-sense gun legislation is essential. We need the legislature to enact meaningful changes to protect Minnesotans. I urge our legislators to pass comprehensive gun violence prevention legislation as soon as the legislative session begins. This includes a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Minnesotans are ready – recent polling has shown that nearly seven in ten Minnesotans (69%) support an assault weapons ban, with even higher levels of support in the suburbs (79%). But until legislators act, my administration is committed to thinking creatively and using every tool available to ensure safety and security.

First, our State took a big step in the right direction with the Extreme Risk Protection Order (“ERPO”) law passed in 2024. This law allows loved ones, law enforcement, and prosecutors to petition the courts to intervene and temporarily prevent someone in crisis from accessing firearms. Since enactment, Minnesotans have already utilized the ERPO law over 400 times across the state, which has saved lives. But we can do more – the law is more effective when more people know how to use it. To this end, I am ordering the Department of Public Safety (“DPS”) to provide training, information, and best practices to law enforcement, judges, mental health crisis professionals, and the public. I am also ordering DPS to collect and report ERPO statistics so that the public can receive accurate information about the impact of these laws in our State.

Second, we know that firearms are the leading cause of death in the United States for children and young adults. Minnesota law makes it a crime to negligently store a firearm where a child is likely to gain access to it. Safe storage of firearms is an essential part of health and safety and is a common-sense measure that protects our kids. However, over half of all gun owners do not practice safe storage, which is particularly dangerous in homes where children are present. It is one of my top priorities to sign safe storage legislation into law. Until the legislature passes this measure, I am using available resources to

protect as many children as possible from the risks and potentially tragic consequences of unsecured firearms. I am ordering DPS, along with the Department of Education (“MDE”), to work together to ensure that households with children have access to clear best practices about safe storage of firearms, including information about free and low-cost options for gun locks and safes, to ensure that we help stop preventable tragedies from occurring.

Finally, we need to better understand the financial impact that guns have on our community. Numerous cities and states have considered or passed legislation mandating liability or other insurance coverage for firearms. I am asking the Department of Commerce to advise on the interaction between firearms and insurance in Minnesota. As part of this work, I am ordering the Department of Commerce to work with insurance companies to understand the types and number of claims filed relating to guns, and how much firearms cost all Minnesotans, regardless of whether they own a gun. This information could help inform new avenues to pursue to save lives.

For these reasons, I order as follows:

1. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this Executive Order, the terms below are defined as follows:
 - a. “State agencies” means the departments and agencies listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 15.06, subdivision 1, in addition to the Office of Higher Education, the Department of Military Affairs, and the Office of Cannabis Management.
 - b. “ERPO” means an extreme risk protection order, as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 624.7171.
 - c. “Firearm” means a device designed to be used as a weapon, from which is expelled a projectile by the force of any explosion or force of combustion, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 609.666, subdivision 1(a).
 - d. “Insurance company” means every insurer, corporation, business trust, or association engaged in insurance as principal, excluding a political subdivision providing self-insurance or establishing a pool under Minnesota Statutes, section 471.981, subdivision 3.
 - e. “Homeowner’s insurance” has the meaning as set forth in Minnesota Statutes, section 65A.27, subdivision 4.
2. **Actions by State Agencies**
 - a. All state agencies must pursue opportunities and coordinate with each other to protect Minnesotans, particularly minors and vulnerable adults, from gun violence to the fullest extent of their authority.
3. **Extreme Risk Protection Order Promotion and Best Practices**
 - a. To promote and improve the effective implementation of Minnesota’s ERPO laws, DPS will:
 - i. By April 1, 2026, develop guidance documents that describe the ERPO laws and process, including a checklist of ERPO best practices to share with law

enforcement agencies and prosecutors across the State. DPS will consult with law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, judges, and victim services professionals in developing the best practices guidance documents.

- ii. By February 1, 2026, publish on its website on a monthly basis, the following public data regarding ERPOs:
 1. The number of ERPO petitions filed in each county in the State;
 2. The number of ERPO petitions granted in each county in the State; and
 3. The number of ERPO petitions denied in each county in the State.
- iii. By May 1, 2026, collect, host, and share training and educational resources on the requirements, procedures, and best practices of Minnesota's ERPO laws for key ERPO partners, including law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, judges, court personnel, victim services professionals, health care professionals, mental health crisis professionals, educators, and other professionals who regularly work with people who may be at risk of harm to self or others.
- iv. By May 1, 2026, develop and implement a multilingual, targeted education campaign informing the public about Minnesota's ERPO laws, including:
 1. Who is authorized to petition the courts for an ERPO;
 2. The procedural requirements for petitioning the courts for an ERPO;
 3. The standard of proof and elements that must be established to the court;
 4. The process that takes place if the court issues an ERPO; and
 5. Guidance on recognizing warning signs, supporting people in crisis, and connecting the ERPO process with other crisis services.
- v. By May 1, 2026, begin assessing the effectiveness of Minnesota's ERPO laws, including:
 1. Evaluating the court process and procedures used by system actors and community partners using feedback from key ERPO partners;
 2. Evaluating whether the ERPO laws are being applied efficiently and equitably to maximize public safety through systemic review of case outcomes;
 3. Evaluating potential inequities in the implementation of the ERPO laws, including communities that are overrepresented or underrepresented in the ERPO process and identifying any disparate impacts of the ERPO process; and

4. Evaluating use of the ERPO laws by jurisdiction in Minnesota to identify potential underutilization to inform education and outreach efforts in those jurisdictions to promote the efficient and equitable implementation of the ERPO laws.

4. Promotion of Safe Storage of Firearms

- a. By March 1, 2026, DPS will develop and provide to MDE an informational notice regarding best practices for the safe storage of firearms that includes:
 - i. An overview of Minnesota laws that address firearm storage;
 - ii. A description of different means for safe storage of firearms;
 - iii. Answers to frequently asked questions about firearm storage requirements; and
 - iv. Guidance on where to obtain gun locks and safes, including free or low-cost options.
- b. By May 1, 2026, MDE will:
 - i. Post the informational notice developed under paragraph 4(a) on MDE's website in English, Spanish, Hmong, and Somali;
 - ii. Provide digital copies of the informational notice developed under paragraph 4(a) to the board of each public school district in Minnesota, the board of each charter school in Minnesota, and the governing body of each nonpublic school in Minnesota;
 - iii. Instruct the governing body of each public and nonpublic school in Minnesota to post links to MDE's webpage described in paragraph 4(a); and
 - iv. Instruct the governing body of each public and nonpublic school in Minnesota to distribute the informational notice developed under paragraph 4(a) to the parent or legal guardian of student enrolled at the school either electronically or by U.S. Mail.

5. Department of Commerce Data Call

- a. The Minnesota Department of Commerce will:
 - i. By February 1, 2026, use its authority under Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 45.027, subdivision 1(9), to issue a data call requiring all insurance companies writing homeowner's insurance in Minnesota to submit detailed policy and claims data involving firearms.
 - ii. By October 1, 2026, prepare and present a report to the Governor and relevant state agencies summarizing the requested data and provide recommendations on potential changes to state law.

This Executive Order is effective fifteen days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State. It will remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or until it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 4.035, subdivision 3.

A determination that any provision of this Executive Order is invalid will not affect the enforceability of any other provision of this Executive Order. Rather, the invalid provision will be modified to the extent necessary so that it is enforceable.

Signed on December 16, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Walz", written over a horizontal line.

Tim Walz, GOVERNOR

Filed According to Law:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Simon", written over a horizontal line.

Steve Simon, SECRETARY OF STATE

Filed December 16, 2025
Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State, Steve Simon