



JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL
of PUBLIC HEALTH

EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER: A TOOL TO SAVE LIVES

WHAT IS AN EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER?

AN EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER (ERPO) IS A CIVIL ORDER ISSUED BY A COURT WHEN SOMEONE IS AT RISK OF VIOLENCE TO SELF (INCLUDING SUICIDE) OR OTHERS. WHILE AN ERPO IS IN PLACE, A PERSON CANNOT PURCHASE OR POSSESS GUNS.

WHAT IS AN EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER?

ERPOs allow those on the front lines — law enforcement and, depending on the jurisdiction, family members, health professionals, and school administrators — to ask a court to prohibit a person at risk of violence to self or others from purchasing or possessing firearms.

THE EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER: A TOOL TO SAVE LIVES

- 109** Americans killed every day by firearms¹
- 61** Percent of people who are killed by guns die by suicide, equivalent to more than 61 suicides every day¹
- 1/3** of ERPO respondents in Connecticut who received mental health or substance use disorder treatment while subject to an ERPO²
- 1** Life is saved for every 10-20 ERPOs issued²

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, 1999-2017. Available: <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html>.
2. Swanson JW, et al. (2017) Implementation and Effectiveness of Connecticut's Risk-Based Gun Removal Law: Does it Prevent Suicides? Law and Contemporary Problems, 80:179-208.

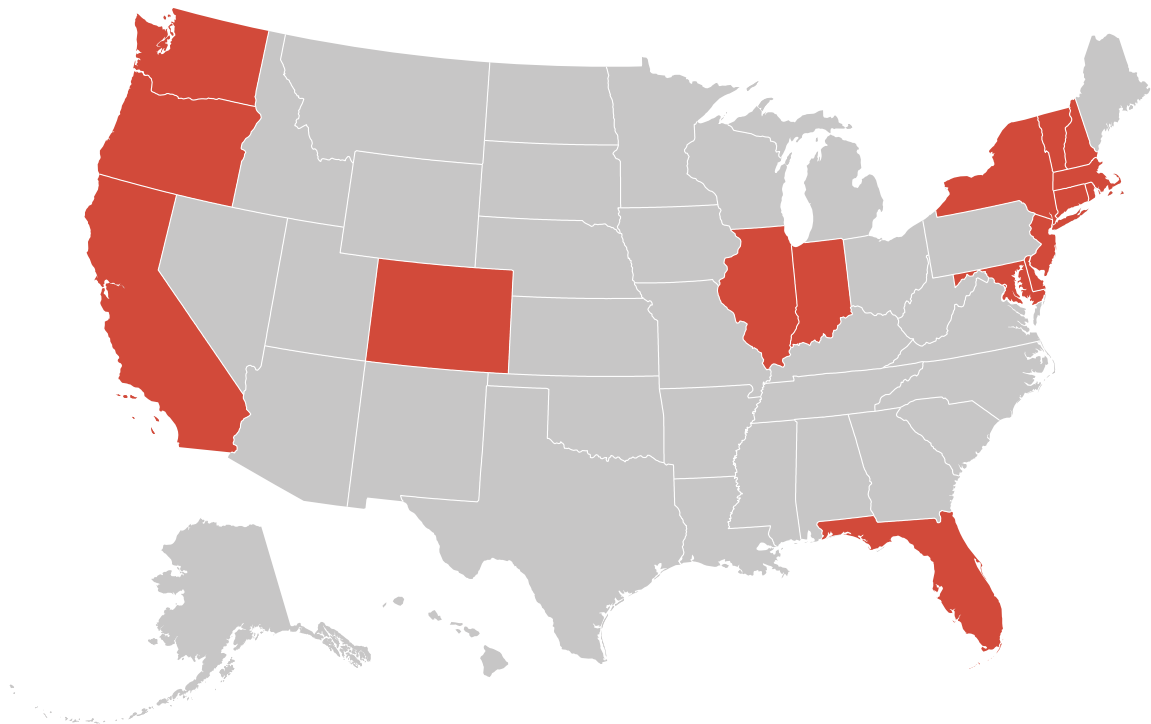
WHY ARE ERPOs AN IMPORTANT TOOL TO CURB GUN VIOLENCE?

STATE LAWS OFTEN DO NOT PROVIDE CLEAR LEGAL AUTHORITY TO RESTRICT ACCESS TO GUNS BEFORE A TRAGEDY OCCURS, EVEN WHEN IT IS CLEAR THAT AN INDIVIDUAL IS AT RISK OF SUICIDE OR HARM TO SELF OR OTHERS.

ERPO LAWS PROVIDE A LEGAL MEANS, USING A CIVIL PROCESS, TO PREVENT TRAGEDIES.

ERPO LAWS GAIN MOMENTUM

**17 STATES AND
THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA HAVE
EXTREME RISK
PROTECTION
ORDER (ERPO)
LAWS IN PLACE***



WHO CAN APPLY FOR AN ERPO?

WHO?

Depending on the state's ERPO law, family members, intimate partners, household members, law enforcement, health professionals, and/or school administrators may be eligible to petition a court to temporarily restrict a person from purchasing and possessing firearms.

HOW DO YOU OBTAIN AN ERPO?

HOW?

By filing a petition with the court that describes the basis for the belief that the person is at risk of harming themselves (including suicide) or others. Depending on the state, under certain circumstances this may be done by telephone. Forms may be available on a court's website.

WHAT ARE NEXT STEPS?

WHAT?

A judge may issue a temporary order and provide a date for a final ERPO hearing. If the respondent to the order received notice or is present and had an opportunity to be heard, a judge may issue a final order which will last for a set amount of time, typically no more than one year.

SERVICE AND DISPOSSESSION OF FIREARMS

GUNS PROHIBITED

After an ERPO is issued by a court, law enforcement will serve the order to the person named and explain that guns cannot be purchased or possessed as well as the dispossession requirements.

PURCHASES BARRED

Firearms will be removed; the ERPO will be added to the background check database that law enforcement uses when anyone applies to buy a gun.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ERPO ENDS?

RETURNING FIREARMS

Once the order is terminated or expires, the respondent can request that their guns be returned. Law enforcement will run a background check to make sure that the respondent is not prohibited from possessing firearms for any other reason and then return the firearm(s).

ANALYSIS OF ERPO SUCCESS IN CONNECTICUT

Police found firearms in 99% of cases, removing an average of seven guns per warrant.

Nearly one-third of respondents received mental health and/or substance abuse treatment after a risk-warrant was issued.

**ESTIMATE: FOR EVERY
10-20 WARRANTS ISSUED
1 LIFE IS SAVED.**

IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF
CONNECTICUT'S RISK-BASED GUN REMOVAL
LAW: DOES IT PREVENT SUICIDES?



ABOUT THE PROJECT

In 2013, following the Sandy Hook massacre, the Consortium for Risk-Based Firearm Policy published evidence-based recommendations to address all forms of gun violence. Among the recommendations was a call for states to pass a new policy called Extreme Risk Protection Orders. As of July 10, 2019, six years since the Consortium released its report, 17 states and the District of Columbia have passed **new** ERPO laws. Dozens more states have introduced ERPO bills.

With many laws in place, and several additional states poised to enact ERPO laws, there is a need for information, technical assistance, and support for implementing ERPO laws. This project was created to address that need. Please visit the central resource for ERPO implementers at americanhealth.jhu.edu/implementERPO.



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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

To learn more, go to our toolkit for implementers of ERPO laws at:
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