

# GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION PACKAGE

## Ban Military Assault Rifles and High-Capacity Magazines

Assault rifles allow sustained, high-volume, rapid-fire shooting over a short period. They are often paired with high-capacity magazines that enable shooters to fire several rounds without pausing to reload, resulting in more gunshot wounds and higher death tolls. The Governor's proposal includes a ban on assault rifles and magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition with a focus on preventing gun violence, reducing mass shootings, and decreasing fatalities – a ban that Minnesotans overwhelmingly support.

## Re-pass the Binary Trigger Ban

The Governor's proposal includes a ban on binary triggers which allow semiautomatic firearms to shoot more than one shot with a single pull and release of the trigger, effectively doubling the rate of fire. A ban on binary triggers was passed in Minnesota in 2024 but was struck down due to the state's single subject bill rule.

## Ban Firearms Without Serial Numbers

Ghost Guns – untraceable firearms bought and assembled as separate pieces – don't have serial numbers, allowing owners to evade regulations. Untraceable guns can more easily land in the hands of unqualified buyers and prevent police from tracing weapons used in crimes. A ban on firearms without serial numbers will protect the safety of Minnesotans by fixing the ghost gun loophole, ensuring the regulation of all firearms.

## Require Reporting of Lost or Stolen Firearms

Requiring that lost and stolen guns be reported to law enforcement deters illegal gun trafficking. The Governor's proposal for required reporting will allow the police to respond more quickly to gun thefts and help identify tracking patterns.

## Require Safe Storage of Firearms

Secure storage practices, including the use of gun safes and locks plays a vital role in reducing the risk of gun violence. Storing firearms securely protects children and adults by preventing unintentional shootings, gun suicides, and gun theft.

## Require Firearm Insurance

The Governor's proposal includes mandated firearm insurance for gun owners to reduce the incidence of gun violence and adverse economic consequences. The proposal requires gun owners to maintain liability insurance and requires insurers to make coverage available in homeowner or renters insurance policy.

## Implement Gun Industry Accountability

Due to a federal law, the gun industry has broad immunity from civil liability and gun manufacturers enjoy special legal protection, even when they have acted negligently or recklessly. This immunity is not absolute—the Governor's proposal requires responsible business practices by the gun industry by creating standards of conduct for the marketing and sale of firearms and by allowing victims of gun violence an avenue to seek justice and compensation if those standards of conduct are violated. Creating this legal cause of action holds gun manufacturers accountable for dangerous practices and will incentivize safety, not lethality.

## Repeal Local Preemption of Firearm Restrictions

Minnesota is among 42 states that have preemption laws that remove authority from local governments to regulate guns and ammunition. Preemption laws threaten public safety and limit the authority of local officials. Repealing the state preemption law will allow local governments to enact commonsense gun safety measures.

## Support for Additional Public Awareness of Extreme Risk Protection Orders

Minnesota's Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) law allows law enforcement intervention to temporarily prevent someone in crisis from accessing firearms. They are a proven way to intervene before an incident of gun violence occurs and can help de-escalate emergency situations. The Governor has proposed additional funding for the Department of Public Safety to raise awareness for ERPOs.

## Implement Firearm and Ammunition Tax

The Governor's proposal creates a firearm and ammunition tax that would be imposed on retailers. This includes a ten percent tax on the sale of handguns, and an 11 percent tax on sales of long guns and ammunition. The retailer may, but is not required to, collect the tax from the purchaser. The proposal includes funding for a new primary auditor to work with existing staff to identify, educate, and register unregistered retailers.

## Allow Public Colleges and Universities to Restrict Firearms on Campus for Visitors

The Governor's proposal would allow public postsecondary institutions to restrict the carry or possession of firearms by visitors on the institution's property. A visitor who violates an institution's firearm policy may be ordered to leave, and refusal to do so would result in a petty misdemeanor.

## Increase Mental Health Supports

The Governor's proposal aims to enhance access to mental health supports as a strategy to prevent acts of gun violence. The proposal adds a new Medical Assistance benefit – Coordinate Specialty Care – to ensure that individuals experiencing early episodes of psychosis are able to access person-centered and evidence-based care to support their mental health needs prior to symptoms leading to acts of violence.

## Establish the School Support, Intervention and Resources Team

Mental health concerns and crises can prevent students from fully engaging academically and socially. The establishment of School Support, Intervention, and Resource Teams (SSIRTs) – multidisciplinary teams composed of counselors, nurses, mental health professionals, teachers, administrators, and law enforcement – will help ensure safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environments where students have access to proactive, research-based support. By establishing SSIRTs and providing statewide support, schools can identify early warning signs, intervene appropriately, and prevent harm while connecting students to necessary mental health resources.

## Establish the School Safety Center Resources and School Safety Grant Program

The Minnesota School Safety Center (MnSSC) works in collaboration with a wide range of partners to advance school safety and provide safe and healthy learning environments for all K-12 students in Minnesota. Staff collaborate by incorporating training, outreach, and resource provision with partner state agencies. The Governor's proposal invests in additional staff positions within the MnSSC to expand its operational capacity and broaden outreach, ensuring equitable access to safety and security resources statewide. The Department of Public Safety would also utilize a portion of the grant funding to add additional grants management staff to develop, implement, administer and oversee the School Safety Grant Program.

## Expand Behavior Threat Assessment and Management Staffing

Across the nation there has been an increase in threats and violent rhetoric with a focus on anti-government sentiment. Discourse targeting elected officials has followed this trend – the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's Minnesota Fusion Center and Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management team (BTAM) has seen a sharp increase in threat and harassment reports. This escalation is underscored by recent attacks, including the assassination of Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark, and the shootings of Senator John Hoffman and his wife Yvette, and other violent acts nationwide. Minnesota has also experienced increased mass-violence incidents, including the tragic attack at Annunciation School. These trends show no signs of slowing, making early intervention for individuals on a pathway to violence critical

