

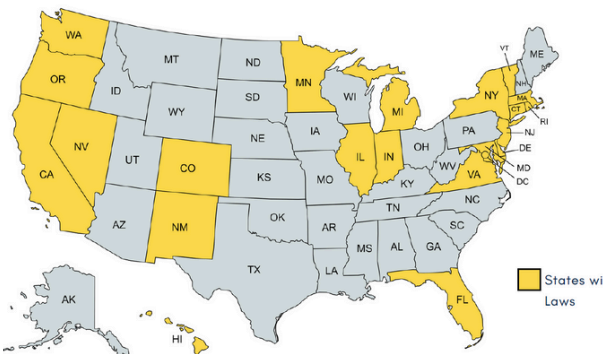
The ACP Wisconsin Chapter Health and Public Policy Committee has prepared issue guides on ACP health policy positions

What are ERPOs?

ERPO=Extreme Risk Protection Order, also known as “red flag laws.” ERPO’s are civil (not criminal) court orders that temporarily restrict access to firearms for individuals at imminent risk of harm to themselves and/or others, such as when there is concern for suicide or unlawful use of firearms such as homicide or mass shooting. This may include preventing the individual from purchasing firearms and removing firearms already in their possession.

The American College of Physicians issued a position paper in 2018 endorsing policies to reduce firearm injuries and deaths, including the enactment of ERPO laws

As of August 2024, 21 states and the District of Columbia have ERPO laws



<https://firearminjury.umich.edu>

Are ERPOs effective?

More research is needed, but initial findings are promising. Data from Connecticut (the earliest adopter) estimated that for every 10 to 20 ERPOs issued by the court, 1 suicide was prevented. A review of ERPO use in California identified 21 cases in which an ERPO was used in response to a mass shooting threat. Data from Indiana showed a 7.5% reduction in firearm suicides after ERPO laws.

How do ERPOs work?

Eligible petitioners (typically law enforcement or family, and in a growing number of states clinicians) file a temporary petition to the court under penalty of perjury. Generally, a judge can make an expedited initial ruling which takes effect immediately. An expedited hearing is held with the subject and petitioner present. If the legal burden of proof is met, the judge issues an ERPO that can remain active for a few weeks up to 1 year.

**3/5 OF GUN DEATHS ARE
FROM SUICIDE**

1 in 5 Gun suicide victims are veterans
90% of suicide survivors do not go on to die by suicide

<https://giffords.org/issues/gun-suicide/>

Wisconsin currently does NOT have an ERPO law