



**TO: PA House Judiciary Committee Members**  
**FROM: Adam Garber, CeaseFirePA Education Fund Executive Director**  
**RE: Support Life-Saving Solutions to Gun Violence; Don't Play Games**

June 10, 2022

Dear Representative,

Pennsylvanians are living through a slow-moving massacre. From our rural communities where an epidemic of suicide is devastating older white men, to our cities that are losing a generation to gun violence, to Pennsylvanians of all stripes living in terror of the next shooting at their school, grocery store, house of worship, or place of work – this epidemic costs the lives of about 1,700 Pennsylvanians every year and makes all of us less free because of the constant fear of where the next shooting will occur.

For the first time this session, the House Judiciary Committee is considering evidence-based solutions to this crisis. **We urge you to support unamended versions of:**

- **House Bill 699 (Fitzgerald):** Safely storing firearms in the home is something any responsible gun owner already does. Requiring safe storage will reduce firearm suicide by creating a momentary pause, and will reduce unintentional shootings and school shootings by keeping guns away from kids.
- **House Bill 770 (Gainey):** As Retired Major General Paul Eaton recently explained, AR-15s and other assault weapons are accurately called “Weapons of War” that are offensive in design. After watching the devastation in Buffalo and Uvalde, it is clearer than ever that these firearms have no place in our communities and should be banned in Pennsylvania, as they were federally from 1994 - 2004.
- **House Bill 1538 (Frankel):** Local elected officials in York, Reading, Allentown, Scranton, Erie, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, and elsewhere currently have limited tools to address gun violence, forcing their residents to face ongoing shootings. It is time to empower local leaders to act by ending firearm preemption.
- **House Bill 1903 (Stephens):** Extreme Risk Protection Orders provide a judicial tool for close family members to save the lives of their loved ones. It has reduced firearm suicide by 14% in Connecticut and saved lives in other states such as Indiana, Florida, and New Mexico. A total of 19 states and the District of Columbia have an ERPO law.

Combined, these four bills will address the full scope of gun violence in the Commonwealth, saving hundreds of lives each year. **We urge you to vote yes on these bills without any amendments.**

If you have any questions about this or other gun violence prevention policies, I can be reached at [adam.garber@ceasefirepa.org](mailto:adam.garber@ceasefirepa.org) or (267) 515-1220.

Sincerely,

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