

The Second Amendment protects our right to bear arms, but with every right comes responsibility.

As responsible gun owners, we are concerned about the alarming rise in gun violence and agree with the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who wrote:

"Like most rights, the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited..." It is "...not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose."

We want to lead the way by promoting the **Responsible Gun Ownership Pledge**:

- I will practice safe storage. I will keep my firearms and ammunition locked and separate.
- I will support universal background check requirements. I will not sell or buy a firearm without a background check.
- I will support the rights of my fellow citizens to be free from intimidation by the open display of firearms in public. I will avoid the unnecessary carrying of firearms in public, particularly in places where children are present.
- I will always make gun safety a priority in my home, in the field or on the range.
- I will ask about the presence of unsecured firearms in any homes where my children play or stay.

Protect Minnesota

was founded in 1991 as a coalition of 16 statewide groups committed to working together to prevent gun violence. 25 years later, Protect Minnesota is still the only independent, state-based gun violence prevention organization in Minnesota.

Join Responsible Gun Owners of Minnesota

Go to www.protectmn.org to make a donation, sign up to join, make a gift, or request a speaker. You can also "like" us on Facebook and follow us on twitter @protectmn.

**PROTECT
MINNESOTA**
working together to prevent gun violence

Protect Minnesota is a 501.c3 tax exempt organization. All donations to Protect Minnesota are tax deductible and will be used for educational purposes.



Hunters, sport-shooters, licensed dealers and other gun owners working together to **PROTECT MINNESOTA** from gun violence.

Every day in America, 300 people are shot; 48 are children. Every day in America, 90 people die from gun shot wounds; 7 are children.¹

One American is killed by a firearm every 17 minutes; 11,000 are murdered with guns each year; more than 32,000 die annually of all gun violence.¹

The presence of a gun in the home makes it three times more likely a person living there will commit suicide², and five times more likely a woman will be murdered by her domestic partner.³

Gun violence is expected to surpass motor vehicle accidents as a cause of death in 2016.⁴ Firearm injuries cost American citizens \$174 billion in 2010 alone.⁵

Gun violence is getting out of control in our country. It's time responsible gun owners did something about it.

Maybe you learned gun safety from your father or grandfather, who taught you to unload, clean and lock up your gun carefully after every hunting trip. Perhaps the military or working in law enforcement taught you to respect the deadly power of your weapon at all times. Or you may be a federally licensed gun dealer, concerned about unscrupulous private sellers enabling guns to fall into the wrong hands.

However you came to be a responsible gun owner, you are one. And you are frustrated. You value your Second Amendment rights, but also think we need common sense legislation and education to make gun ownership **SAFER**.

Responsible Gun Owners of Minnesota brings hunters, sport-shooters, licensed dealers, veterans, and other gun owners together to work to prevent gun violence and save lives. **We invite you to join us!**



Responsible Gun Owners of Minnesota: Our Goals

Legislative Priorities

- 1) Closing the background check loopholes that enable felons, domestic abusers and other legally prohibited individuals to purchase guns from unlicensed dealers, at gun shows, and online without a criminal background check. An April 2016 poll found that 86% of Minnesotans, including a large majority of gun owners, support comprehensive background checks⁶. Our #1 priority is passing legislation that would mandate background checks before ALL gun purchases.
- 2) Passing legislation authorizing Gun Violence Protection Orders, also called "Red Flag" legislation, so that family members and law enforcement officers can have firearms temporarily removed from the possession of individuals who are exhibiting signs of depression or serious mental illness, until they get the help they need.
- 3) Removing prohibitions in state law against the collection of data about gun violence and gun deaths which prevent law makers from having the information they need to make informed decisions about gun safety.

Suicide Awareness and Prevention

Over 80% of gun deaths in Minnesota are suicides, the majority of which happen in suburban and rural areas where guns are readily available⁷. Background checks and gun violence protection orders have been shown to decrease gun suicides significantly. But **education** is also vital to saving lives. An important mission of **Responsible Gun Owners of Minnesota** is to work with gun dealers and provide information at gun shows to educate gun owners about the need to identify, get help for, and keep guns away from those vulnerable to suicide.

¹ Brady Center.

² Andrew Anglemeyer, PhD, MPH; Tara Horvath, MA; and George Rutherford, MD. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Vol. 160, No.2, Jan. 21, 2014.

³ D. Hemenway and E.G. Richardson, *Homicide, Suicide, and Unintentional Firearm Fatality: Comparing the United States with Other High-Income Countries*, 2003, *70 Journal of Trauma* 238-42 (2011).

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data completed by Bloomberg.

⁵ Children's Safety Network Economics and Data Analysis Research Center.

⁶ <http://americansforresponsiblesolutions.org/files/2016/04/Polling-Memo-1.pdf>

⁷ *Gun Violence and Background Checks in Minnesota. Everytown for Gun Safety.*