



Frequently Asked Questions

It seems like this is such a political issue, and I don't want to be involved in politics, even though I do care about this issue.

I understand that. I actually don't see this as a political issue, even though it's sometimes made to be one. Polling done by Voices for a Safer Tennessee, FoxNews and Vanderbilt in the last several months in our state shows that the vast majority of Tennesseans support common-sense firearms laws. That includes people from both political parties, people who voted for both candidates in the last presidential election, and people who own guns today. This is an issue of public safety and we simply need to find common ground like we have in other areas.

This is an uphill battle. The legislators will not change their minds.

It does seem tough, yes. But I believe there is change coming. I think the most important step we can do is to share with our legislators what we support and that we are not proposing laws that are restrictive to gun owners. We are proposing safety rules to prevent a tragedy.

What is the difference between a Temporary Transfer law, an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) or even a Red Flag law?

There are different versions of these laws that can lead to similar results. We are using the term Temporary Transfer because that is what it is - a proposal to simply transfer a person's firearm into temporary safe-keeping if they have demonstrated they are a harm to themselves or someone else.

Why aren't you supporting a ban on assault weapons? Isn't that the problem?

This is a complex issue. Right now, Safer TN is focusing our efforts on what we see as the most common ground solutions: temporary transfer laws, secure storage laws, and a consistent background check process. There are a lot of views out there on assault rifles and other aspects of firearm laws, and many other groups devoted to those. We are not focusing on that.

Is this really a mental health challenge? It's the people using the gun to create violence.

This is not an either/or situation. It is a both/and situation - really like a three-legged stool of mental health, firearms safety and community safety. Mental health experts are looking at the best ways to resolve the broader mental health crisis our state faces, which has an impact on gun ownership, as well as many other areas of life. There are also groups looking at school safety and other places of public gathering. We are focused on common ground firearm safety laws knowing that there are others focused on other aspects of this challenge.

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How do these laws define someone as not fit to own a gun? Is that anyone with a mental health diagnosis?

These laws only apply to situations where there is *clear and convincing* evidence an individual poses an *imminent* threat of harming themselves or others. This does not apply to just anyone who is being treated in any way for a mental health situation.

Are the laws you propose unconstitutional?

No. More than 40% of states have some version of these laws. They have not been found to be unconstitutional.

Is this government overreach?

When I look at the statistics of how many children die as a result of firearms, and where Tennessee ranks in terms of firearms safety, I can't help but think that we have to do something and that our government should play a role in addressing this public health crisis. These are common ground parameters similar to those that we have around driving a car - like seatbelts and drinking and driving. Firearm safety laws still respect the Second Amendment.

Is Safer TN affiliated with other groups?

Safer TN is a separate entity with no official affiliation with other local or national organizations.