



MENTAL HEALTH  
COLORADO

## HB18-1436 – Extreme Risk Protection Order

### Position: Support

- 9 states total have passed red flag laws: Delaware (yesterday), Vermont, Maryland, California, Washington, Oregon, Indiana, Connecticut and Florida.
- Helpful statistics (Giffords Law Center):
- A recent study demonstrated that in Connecticut, for every 10.5 guns seized under the law, one suicide was prevented. Indiana also has a version of this law.
- 80% of people considering suicide give some sign of their intentions and 38 out of the 62 mass shooters in the last 20 years were reported as displaying signs of dangerous mental health problems prior to the killings.
- In many of these shootings, people who knew the shooter observed these signs, but federal and state laws provided no clear legal process to restrict his or her access to guns, even temporarily.
- Full study here: <http://lawcenter.giffords.org/gun-laws/policy-areas/who-can-have-a-gun/extreme-risk-protection-orders/>
- See the fourth paragraph....  
**STATE EFFORTS TO RESTRICT GUN ACCESS BY PEOPLE IN CRISES**
- **Prior to the Isla Vista shooting, two states, Connecticut and Indiana, enacted laws allowing law enforcement officers or certain other individuals to obtain court orders restraining dangerous individuals from purchasing or possessing firearms.** Connecticut's law, enacted in 1999, allows two law enforcement officers, or one state's attorney, to petition a court for a firearms restraining order. Although the law was initially underutilized because of a lack of public awareness and limited law enforcement resources, use of the law increased after the Virginia Tech massacre in which a mentally ill man killed 32 people and injured 17 others.<sup>5</sup>