

TEXAS GUN SENSE 89TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

A Policy Recap and Call to Action



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TGS
JUNE 2025

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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Every legislative session in Texas presents a new set of challenges—and opportunities—to fight for the safety of our communities. The 89th Legislative Session tested our collective resolve, but it also underscored the strength, strategy, and solidarity of the gun violence prevention movement in Texas.

This year, our team at Texas Gun Sense tracked hundreds of gun-related bills, led a coalition of tireless advocates, and ensured that voices too often ignored—survivors, young people, healthcare professionals—were heard at the Capitol.



NICOLE GOLDEN

Executive Director

Thanks to your support and an incredible network of partners, we successfully blocked several dangerous bills and helped advance the conversation on gun policy in meaningful ways.

We also faced painful setbacks. Common-sense policies like safe firearm storage and raising the age to purchase semi-automatic rifles were once again dismissed by lawmakers, even in the face of overwhelming public support and pleas from communities impacted by gun tragedies.

Still, we press forward. Because this work is not optional—it's urgent.

To every advocate who testified, emailed, called, showed up at Advocacy Day, or organized in your community: thank you. You are the heartbeat of this movement. Together, we're building momentum, growing coalitions, and shaping a future where gun safety is no longer up for debate, but a shared value.

This report reflects not only what we accomplished this session, but the path ahead. **The path continues—and so do we.**

BY THE NUMBERS: TAKING ACTION

POLICY & ADVOCACY

236 *gun safety bills tracked*

12+ *legislative hearings with TGS testimony*

170+ *materials dropped at Capitol offices*

COMMUNITY & COALITION BUILDING

MONTHLY *Texas Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence meetings*

WEEKLY *Texas Policy Group strategy meetings*

18 *community and advocacy events held Jan–May 2025*

40+ *partner organizations involved across efforts*

YOUTH & HEALTHCARE VOICES

3 *major youth-led events with TGS Rising Leaders & partners*

4 *healthcare-focused events and briefings*

DIGITAL ADVOCACY & ENGAGEMENT

8,500+ *supporter emails sent to lawmakers*

6,000+ *toolkit downloads*

2,900+ *petition signatures*

700K+ *views on social media content*

700+ *clicks on our Legislative Vote Tracker*

5 *new digital tools launched:*

- **Vote Tracker**
- **89th Session Advocacy Toolkit**
- **How to Oppose and Support Bills Toolkit**
- **LTE Toolkit**
- **Video campaign tool**



ADVOCACY DAY AND EVENTS RECAP



18 community and advocacy events held Jan-May 2025, including educational webinars, press conferences, community gatherings, and more.



ADVOCACY DAY

- **Hundreds** mobilized for Advocacy Day 2025
- Convened and coordinated the planning committee
- Visited **every** lawmaker office
- Youth, survivor, and community voices were front and center

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

We successfully blocked numerous dangerous gun bills and advocated for safe policies through coordinated strategy and grassroots pressure.

Key Bills We Fought Against and Blocked

HB 1794 and HB 1128 → Would have allowed individuals (1794) and elections judges (1128) to carry handguns in polling places

SB 1065 → Would have prevented contractors from banning guns at major events like the State Fair and music concerts

HB 2771 → Would have allowed violent felons to possess firearms, including those convicted of stalking and aggravated assault

HB 4201 → Would have allowed firearm carry in schools, courthouses, hospitals and bars

HB 2470 → Would have allowed 18-20 year-olds to carry handguns, licensed or unlicensed

Because of supporters like you, we blocked the majority of harmful bills filed this session.

Policy Gains

We successfully advocated for an increase to \$750k per year in funding for the state's **secure storage campaign**, Keep 'Em Safe, Texas!

AND — we built on our policy success last session to require schools to send secure gun storage information to parents and guardians by encouraging schools to do this 3 times per year.

We also advocated for improved training for armed school security.



Source: Aaron E. Martinez / Austin American-Statesman

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

Lawmakers approved some dangerous policies this session despite public outcry. We'll continue to fight against further rollbacks.

Harmful Bills That Passed

SB 1362 → Blocks life-saving extreme risk protection orders (ERPOs) and criminalizes entities that would enforce an order from out of state

SB 1596 → Legalizes short-barrel firearms that have been strictly regulated for decades because they are easily concealable and extremely lethal

HB 1403 → Bars child welfare agencies from asking prospective foster parents detailed information about firearms in the home

SB 1718 → Allows taxpayer funds to support NRA events

HB 3053 → Bars local governments from hosting gun buyback programs

Thank you to the supporters who sent thousands of emails to lawmakers opposing these bills.

Lawmakers Failed to Act

Despite overwhelming support, lawmakers declined to hear common-sense legislation, including bills to raise the age, strengthen secure gun storage laws, and improve background checks.

Next session, we will continue to work with survivors and partners to **pressure lawmakers to pass life-saving legislation.**



Source: Evan L. Roy/The Texas Tribune

MEDIA HITS

TGS Executive Director Nicole Golden talked to *Newsweek* about SB 1362, the anti-ERPO bill:

“It is misinformation to claim that extreme risk protection orders violate due process. ERPOs from other states are specifically drafted with preservation of due process and have not been found unconstitutional on those grounds.”



Source: CBS Austin

Texas Gun Sense co-authored an op-ed with Dr. Sue Bornstein and Dr. Katherine Hoops on secure firearm storage:

“Texans take pride in courage, independence and resilience—values we pass down to our children. But to uphold these principles, we must ensure the safety of the next generation.”

TGS was featured in *Newsweek*, KUT, CBS Austin, and more. *We were the go-to source for credible, survivor-informed gun safety policy.*

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Our staff and interns worked tirelessly to fight for safer gun laws and against further rollbacks this session.

AVA BLACK

Policy Intern

Ava Black testified against **HB 2470**, which sought to allow 18-20 year olds to carry handguns, licensed or unlicensed, in public.

“Students don’t want ‘thoughts and prayers’ — we want gun violence prevention policy.”



NICOLE GOLDEN

Executive Director

Nicole Golden testified against **HB 2771**, which would have allowed violent convicted felons to possess firearms.

“A history of violence is a notable predictor of future violence. “



WHAT'S NEXT

ACCOUNTABILITY CAMPAIGNS

Town Halls and pressure on lawmakers in the interim

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Partnering with gun owners and community organizations

YOUTH AND HEALTH CARE COALITIONS

Continued growth and skill-building

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Begin workshoping 90th legislative session agenda

NARRATIVE POWER

Story collection, digital amplification, media readiness

