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**Governor Cuomo Signs Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Legislation:
Assemblymember Simon Releases Statement on the new Gun Violence Prevention Law**

New York, NY – On Monday, February 25, 2019, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into law the Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO), or “red flag” bill ([A2689](#)), which is sponsored by Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon and State Senator Brian Kavanagh. Also in attendance were Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, advocates, and Linda Beigel Schulman, whose son, Scott Beigel, was killed while he was saving his students at the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, last year. Assemblymember Simon released the following statement:

“Today was an historic day in New York as we took decisive action to prevent gun violence and save lives. Too often, we are able to see the warning signs that an individual close to us poses a risk of serious harm to themselves or to others, but lack a mechanism to prevent unthinkable tragedies such as interpersonal gun violence or suicide. This law will change that. This legislation will give family members, law enforcement, and school personnel the tools they need to prevent these kinds of tragedies before they happen.

"ERPO creates a new type of court-issued order of protection that temporarily prohibits individuals from purchasing or possessing guns if a family member, law enforcement officer, or school administrator petitions a court and the court finds that the individual is likely to engage in conduct that would harm themselves or others.

"Gun violence is shaking our country to its core, with over 100 people killed every day by guns. The number of gun deaths is rising, with around 40,000 people losing their lives to gun violence each year. Temporarily preventing a person in crisis from accessing firearms can mean the difference between life and death.

"I am grateful to Governor Cuomo for quickly signing this bill into law and for Speaker Pelosi for her national leadership on this issue. I am also thankful to my Senate partner, Senator Brian Kavanagh, Linda Biegel Schulman, and to the survivors and advocates for their tireless work on this issue.”

BACKGROUND:

New York joined thirteen states in adopting ERPO laws. A University of Indianapolis study found that gun seizure laws in Connecticut and Indiana were associated with a [decline in suicides](#). In Maryland, police estimate that [half the seizures](#) stemmed from calls by family members, and one involved a threat against a school. Similarly, Vermont’s new ERPO law may have prevented [a school shooting](#) from occurring.

The ERPO legislation is supported by a broad coalition of national and New York State gun violence prevention experts, advocates, law enforcement officials, mental health organizations, and healthcare groups. For more details on the legislation and the ERPO coalition, [click here](#).

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