

Paul Manganiello MD

Dear Senator Ayer:

I would just like to thank you and the other members of the Judiciary and the Health and Welfare committee for taking the time out of your busy legislative session to hold last night's public hearing concerning S 31. I only submitted one copy of our white paper, and was not able to complete my oral statement. I have included the paper as an attachment, but my testimony follows. Wish you well as the session progresses.

"Good evening, my name is Paul Manganiello, I am a physician and the Medical Director for the Good Neighbor Health Clinic in WRJ. I am also a Masters in Public Health candidate at The Dartmouth Institute, in Hanover, N.H.

I am here tonight because gun violence is a public health issue. This Fall, I, along with four other MPH students co-authored a white paper [which I would like to submit to the committee] on the topic of Criminal Background Checks.

Unfortunately no one wants to recognize the "elephant in the room", the lack of trust that some Vermonters have in government, using the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment of the US constitution and the Vermont State constitution as an excuse for not passing common sense gun safety legislation. They seem to think that legislative regulation is a precursor to legislative confiscation. This is not the case, and the legislature needs to bring gun safety legislation for the general public in line with Vermont hunting legislation.

There is a history of firearm regulation in Vermont, which has not translated into confiscation of an individual's personal firearms. As we know, presently in Vermont, there are statues that are concerned with hunter safety, i.e., the need to show certification of the completion of a hunter safety course, before receiving a hunting license [Act 87, 1986]; an individual is also limited in regards to the capacity of the magazine, 6 cartridges, with automatic loading rifles being banned [Act 130, 1923].

In looking at the Vermont State hunter's safety records, the annual rate of hunting related injuries, standardized per 100,000 hunting licenses issued, was: 9 in 1988, 5 in 1998, and 4 in 2008; and in 2012, the most recent information, there were no reported hunting accidents.

The National Rifle Association has lost it's way, starting out with a mission to educate gun owners in the safe use and storage of firearms,

they have now become the chief spokesperson for gun manufactures, and needlessly stirring up fear in gun owners that the State is after their guns.

The 1993 Federal law, the Brady Bill, has worked in denying millions of convicted felons, fugitives of justice, individuals convicted of crimes of domestic violence, and individuals under court ordered restraint; but as we know there are loopholes which need to be corrected in order to be more effective.

This has become a polarizing issue, with both sides accusing the other of using trumped-up statistics to support their position. Despite what opponents of S 31 claim, that a problem does not exist and that this is contrived by supporters of S 31, there is no doubt that Vermonters have been injured or killed as a result of gun violence.

We also aware of the fact that like motor vehicle legislation, although we might not be able to eliminate firearm deaths and injuries, we can certainly reduce them from happening

There is an old statistical saying that when something bad happens to someone you don't know it is a statistic; when something bad happens to a love one it is a tragedy. My hope and prayer is that no Vermonter ever experiences a tragedy as a result of gun violence. S31, as similar legislation, has been shown in other states, will reduce the chance of that happening.

Thank you for considering my concerns”

Sincerely yours,

*Paul*

Paul Manganiello MD  
Emeritus Professor Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth