

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 11:20 AM

To: Maxine Grad

Subject: Bob Williamson shares Hailey Napier's powerful letter from the VALLEY NEWS

Dear Chair Maxine Grad,

Below is Hailey Napier's letter from the VALLEY NEWS. Hailey eloquently expresses how today's youngsters feel when mass shootings occur and lawmakers do little to address the lethal problem. Best, Bob Williamson...And here's the letter:

<http://www.vnews.com/>

Forum:

A Child of an Era of Fear

When I was 12 years old, I began scanning for exits at every movie theater I went to and carefully thought through escape scenarios as the previews played. I assessed the space between the seats and the floor. Would I be able to crawl between the armrest and the wall unseen?

That was the year of the Aurora shooting. If you don't remember the details, 12 people were murdered in a Century 16 theater in Aurora, Colo.. They were watching *The Dark Knight Rises*. I had begged to see the movie myself, and as I read the headlines online, I realized that innocent people had died, and that I could easily have been one of them.

I am a child of an era of fear. Born almost exactly a year after Columbine, I grew up with the pitch black, unspoken terror of lockdown drills. Hiding in corners and closets and behind desks, as if turning the lights off will convince a killer that school's been canceled on a Tuesday in May; as if a bookshelf will protect me from the rain of bullets driven by some arbitrary vendetta against society.

My experience, and that of my peers, has been distinctly different from prior generations. Unable to vote, and brushed off as naive when we speak up, we lie scared and unheard.

We are the children raised in a culture that denies the fact that assault rifles were designed to, and do, kill people. And we are the children who have been slaughtered as a result. Those of us who remain breathing live in daily fear that we'll be next.

Look at the young bodies in the wake of the Parkland shooting. Imagine they are your own. Imagine going back to school every day, knowing you could be next. Now stop imagining, and for the sake of our own innocent lives, listen.

Hailey Napier

Woodstock

Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 5:04 PM

To: Maxine Grad

Subject: LaLonde amendment

Just wanted to let you know I'm in support of S. 55 including the LaLonde amendment. This would be one important step that could help to decrease mass shootings.

Thanks for your consideration.

Gerry Loney
71 Seymour St.
Middlebury, VT 05753

Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:20 PM

To: Maxine Grad

Subject: Bob Williamson thanks you

Dear Chair Maxine Grad,

I just got home from Montpelier, where I was privileged to sit in your House Judiciary Committee and hear testimony for firearm reforms, which I strongly support.

Gun violence chose me 30 years ago when a deeply disturbed woman went on a shooting spree in my children's school in Winnetka, Illinois. Fortunately my two daughters were spared, but only by dumb luck. We need to do better than dumb luck.

Gov. Scott isn't asking you to charge directly into the line of fire of the next Adam Lanza, the Sandy Hook gunman, but he is asking you to act courageously to make Vermonters safer via comprehensive gun reforms. The near-tragedy that was Fair Haven High School shows we are vulnerable, as does Paul Heinz's purchase of an AR-15 in a parking lot less than 30 hours after the Orlando nightclub massacre, a sale that required no background check at all. How many Jack Sawyers, the Fair Haven plotter, are out there now ready to buy a firearm like that, knowing no check will be run on them? That's not a risk worth taking.

Two testifiers today claim the 10-round ammo magazine was an arbitrary limit. I wish I could bring Christina Taylor-Green to testify, to tell you why it isn't arbitrary, but I can't: Christina is the 9-year-old child killed by Jared Loughner's 13th bullet, according to FBI Reports, in Tucson, Jan. 8, 2011, the day Rep. Gabby Giffords was shot. Christina's silence speaks volumes to me.

We can do better than dumb luck. The bills before you now give you that chance—a chance worth taking. Many thanks for your thoughtful consideration.

Best,

Bob Williamson
Board Member, Gun Sense Vermont
229 Quartz Mountain Way
South Woodstock, VT 05071
802-457-3609

Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:32 PM

To: Maxine Grad; Chip Conquest; Tom Burditt; Selene Colburn; dickdickinson@comcast.net; Kimberly Jessup; Martin LaLonde; Kiah Morris; Barbara Rachelson; Gary Viens; Janssen Willhoit

Subject: Please support the LaLonde Amendment to S.55

Thank you to all of you for your service to our beautiful state and its residents.

I am writing to ask that you please support the LaLonde Amendment to S.55 because this amendment bans assault weapons, sets a magazine capacity limit, creates a ten-day waiting period for firearms purchases, and requires safe storage of all firearms.

As you may be aware, Vermont has an **F** rating from the Giffords Law Center Annual Gun Laws Scorecard. We rank 41 out of 50 states for the strength of our gun laws. Here is the link to this data: <http://lawcenter.giffords.org/scorecard/>



Giffords Law Center's Annual Gun Law Scorecard

lawcenter.giffords.org

We graded and ranked all 50 states on their gun laws and found that states with strong gun safety laws have fewer average gun deaths than states with weak laws. Is your state doing enough to save lives?

Vermont has an annual average of 11 gun deaths per 100,000 people, whereas Massachusetts has only 3.4 (they rank 4th on the scorecard, not a coincidence) and Massachusetts has an **A-** rating for strength of gun laws.

Alaska and Alabama have the highest gun death rates (23 and 21.4 respectively), and also have **F** ratings for strength of gun laws.

This little state of Vermont is proud to be found amongst the most forward-looking, proactive states in the US, and I am hoping that we will rapidly come to show the same wisdom in regards to our gun laws.

Personally, when I see someone with a gun in the same store or room or building or gas station as I am in, I become fearful for myself and for those around me. RAGE is prevalent in our society, and I am sure you all have experienced the irrational rage of other drivers occasionally. Please take the guns away from these enraged people.

Another point is this: a lot of money has been spent over recent decades to convince gun-owners that "they" are going to take their guns away. As a result, people have become paranoid and fearful, and have become hoarders of guns, taking zealous pride in their armories (which of course include weapons that should never be used when hunting for food). One of the strongest drivers behind this prolonged fear-mongering campaign is, in my humble opinion, the corporations which produce these weapons. Of course they don't want their income stream to be reduced! The NRA serves as the voice for these corporations.

The second amendment was intended to provide for a well-trained militia (what we now know as the National Guard) and not at all as a device to keep us all living in the Wild Wild West. I am quite positive that the Founders did not intend to create a Constitutional "right" for angry men to be able to massacre crowds of people at will. No doubt, they had no way of envisioning the development of the sophisticated deadly weaponry that is available to consumers today, and no doubt they would have been appalled about the insanity of "gun rights" as it is debated in the present era.

Is it really a Vermont value, to put more and more people's lives at risk just so that the wealthy corporations can maintain and increase their wealth? I sure hope not! And is it a Vermont value to continue to allow the AR-15 to be a household item that can be pulled out and used whenever repressed rage explodes outward?

Let your consciences, rather than your fears, be your guide, please. Let's value human life over unchecked, unregulated, uncontrolled gun rights.

Thanks again for doing the tough, difficult work that you do.

Respectfully,
Lillian Pickering
Essex Junction

From: Peggyann Noel
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:54 PM
To: Maxine Grad
Subject: passing background check legislation

We want a YES vote on S. 55.

--

LOVE

Peggyann

Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2018 5:58 PM

To: Maxine Grad

Subject: Writing in support of legislation

Dear Maxine Grad,

I am a citizen of Vermont, living in Richmond, I want you to know that I strongly support the following bills currently in the House Committee on Judiciary:

S.55, universal background check with an amendment to raise minimum age of purchase to 21 and a new amendment of limiting magazine capacity

S.221, now folded into H.675, extreme risk protection order (prohibits possession by someone who could be a threat to themselves or others)

H.876, bump stock ban

And in the Senate Committee on Judiciary

H.422, Improving Safety for Victims of Domestic Violence

If I can do anything to help provide additional support for these bills becoming law, please let me know.

Thank you,

Jody Lesko

138 Rocky Road, Richmond

Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 10:08 PM

To: Maxine Grad

Subject: Re: S.55

Dear Representative Grad,

I'm writing to urge you to pass H.55 out of committee and onto the House floor for a vote. It is imperative that Vermont adopt common-sense gun regulations that decrease the risk of senseless gun violence.

Thank you.

Linda Magoon

Burlington

Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 10:13 PM

To: botzow@sover.net

Subject: Support for firearm legislation

Bill,

As a Vermont emergency physician, I am intimately aware of the adverse health consequences of firearm victimization, injury and death among the citizens and communities of our home state, and wish to inform you that the negative health outcomes are enormous. Many of these negative health outcomes may be prevented if the proposed legislation passes.

As Chair of the Trauma and Injury Prevention Section of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), and board member of the Vermont Chapter of

ACEP, I wish to inform you that our specialty organization has stated policies in support of this type of legislation. The American College of Surgeons, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Medical Association also have similar policies.

As a firearm owner and resident of Pownal, Vermont, I wish to ask for your support of the firearm legislation moving forward in the House.

Thank you,
Chris Barsotti MD

Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 11:30 AM

To: Maxine Grad; Chip Conquest; Tom Burditt; Selene Colburn; Eileen Dickinson; Kimberly Jessup; Kiah Morris; Barbara Rachelson; Gary Viens; Janssen Willhoit

Cc: Peter Geiss

Subject: S.55

Dear House Judiciary Committee members:

You have before you a bill passed by the Senate, S.55 which proposes “universal background checks” and raising the age to purchase firearms to 21 with appropriate exceptions. Please support this bill. It will not stop gun violence or even mass shootings in Vermont but it will reduce them. It’s a sensible small step in the direction of reducing gun violence. It will save innocent lives. A more significant step in this direction would be a ban on high capacity magazines which only exist to make highly lethal assault weapons even more lethal. High capacity magazines have no place in a civilized society.

Thank you
Peter Geiss
Underhill

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 8:43 AM

To: Maxine Grad

Cc: Martin LaLonde

Subject: Gun safety

Maxine:

Thank you for inviting input from Members. I am writing to you, with a copy to Martin, rather than signing up to visit with the committee because the issue I bring forward has not been on your radar screen, and I do not want to impinge on your time available to Members who will be focused on aspects of gun safety already under discussion.

That said, I do want to assure you that I will be in full support of whatever gun safety measures you bring forward. I must add that I am extremely disappointed that the assault weapon issue had to be put aside. I understand the difficulty regarding definition, but I had hoped that it would be overcome.

Anyhow, to the issue not on your radar screen... On Town Meeting Day, some of my constituents asked me, quite passionately, about firearms and bars. They understood why

Burlington alone could not implement a prohibition; they understood that we have a statute on the books disallowing that authority to municipalities. What they did not understand was why we could not now as a state, through legislative action, prohibit firearms in bars statewide. I did not have an answer.

I share this issue with you now, as I did with two Members in leadership roles the morning after Town Meeting Day. Is the answer “simply” that we are looking at legislation which could have an impact on school safety, not safety in bars and that legislation to that effect should be introduced in the next biennium?

Best and heartfelt wishes for a good experience with the Member testimony in committee, and with many thanks, to you both, for your strength and integrity,

Maida

Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 12:29 PM

To: Maxine Grad; Chip Conquest; Tom Burditt; Selene Colburn; dickdickinson@comcast.net; Kimberly Jessup; Martin LaLonde; Kiah Morris; Barbara Rachelson; Gary Viens; Janssen Willhoit

Subject: Vermont Gun Owner in Support of the Lalonde Act Banning Assault Rifles

Dear House Judiciary Members,

I am writing to express my support for LaLonde's ban on military style assault rifles.

I am a gun owner and I support gun rights. But I am also a father and it is more important to me to protect the safety of the children in our schools. There is no need for military grade assault rifles.

Please consider this bill,

Thank you,

Charles Allan McCoy

Cambridge, Lamoille County

Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 1:16 PM

To: Maxine Grad; Chip Conquest; Tom Burditt; Selene Colburn; dickdickinson@comcast.net; Kimberly Jessup; Martin LaLonde; Kiah Morris; Barbara Rachelson; Gary Viens; Janssen Willhoit

Subject: please APPROVE the LaLonde Amendment to S.55

Dear House Judiciary members,

Please APPROVE the LaLonde Amendment for the safety of all our children, students, and citizens.

These are certainly common sense laws that are a simple way to make a quick impact

on senseless gun violence while we work to attain long-term solutions on gun laws.

There is absolutely NO reason why military-style assault weapons should be even available to the public!!

NO ONE should be able to get their hands on semi-automatic rifles and worse without being IN the military!

These are easy solutions to help alleviate gun violence. Hunters SHOULD have no opposition to these changes in law as they should have no need for a semi automatic weapon if they were any kind of hunter. Hunters shouldn't even be allowed game cameras for goodness sake, that's cheating anyway. The purpose here is to protect PEOPLE, our CHILDREN, our FAMILIES.

Please make the right choice for what's right for all of us.

Thank you,

Lynne Kemp

.....
Some 38 years ago I was a victim of gun violence in a state that still practices very lax gun laws (Alabama).

A Teamster "thumbbreaker" on a motion picture shoot on which I was working took a disliking to me and one morning, while in a drunken state he pulled out a .45 handgun and pointed it at me from a distance of about 15 feet. You don't know how imposing the muzzle of a .45 automatic actually is until you've been on the wrong end of one.

The Teamster uttered three words before leveling the gun at my head and pulling the trigger: "Die, Yankee boy."

I will tell you that when the gun went off, there was a mili-second where I was in limbo, not knowing whether I was dead or alive.

I felt the whiz of the slug pass my ear and realized I was still alive. Mercifully, the shooter was subdued before he could get off another shot. He was arrested and released, allowed to keep his weapon and made a subsequent threat against me.

I reflect upon the 38 years of my life since this life-threatening incident: I married the love of my life, carved out a 35 year career in television/media and produced a son. Had the shooter hit his mark, NONE of this would have happened.

Guns alone do not kill people - but when the most efficient personal killing instrument ever devised in human history is employed by people who should not have them - death can often result.

I beseech the Vermont Legislature to pass any gun control measures it deems necessary in a concerted effort to do one and only one thing - SAVE LIVES.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Jeff Grimshaw
Managing Editor

SoVT Today
301.370.1371

.....
I am in favor of this common sense gun legislation!
Please count all the votes and get this done!
Life is more dangerous than it has to be!
Let's protect our kids!
Liz

Elizabeth S. McLoughlin

.....
Please see email below. I am also aware of the repugnant proposed amendment that seeks to directly insert NRA influence into the school system. I am horrified that anyone would have the gall to suggest such an offense outside of a standup comedy routine. COMMON SENSE GUN REFORM MUST BE A PRIORITY. We cannot allow our democratic system to be hijacked by these amoral demagogues.

Thank you

Kristen

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kristen Vrancken** <kvrانcken@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 22, 2018 at 8:05 PM
Subject: S. 55 In Support of Universal Background Checks
To: COde@leg.state.vt.us, CTaylor@leg.state.vt.us

I am a Burlington resident, state employee, and member of Women's March Vermont.

I wholeheartedly support universal background checks and implore you to support them as well.

We are working closely with the youth planning the March for Our Lives rally in Montpelier on Saturday. It would be heartbreaking for these young people if this bill did not pass.

There will be thousands of youth and allies descending on the capitol this weekend. Please do not let them/us down.

Sincerely,

Kristen Vrancken
Burlington, VT

.....
To clarify, I am in favor of the firearms bill that has been proposed.

Thank you,
Lani Disorda

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 23, 2018, at 9:19 AM, Lani DePonte <egraceod@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Mr. Bailey,

My name is Lani Disorda. I am a mother of soon to be two living in Bennington, VT and I am emailing you today ahead of the rally tomorrow and the vote on Tuesday to express my support of stricter gun regulations in Vermont. I fully support raising the age limit to purchase, much more thorough background checks, a more direct hand in regulation of personal sale, if not a full ban on personal sales, confiscation of firearms from perceived threats. I do not support the idea of arming teachers, not that that is necessarily on the table.

I just hope my voice is heard and that my representatives do their best in creating a safer state for us all and safer schools for our children despite NRA propaganda and posturing.

Best,
Lani Disorda

.....
My name is Miakoda Schultz - registered voter in Bennington, VT 05201.

Please add my email to the support of the above referenced bill for Gun Control/Reform in our states. Let's protect our children lets start with this...

Sincerely,

Miakoda Schultz

.....
Hello Mr. Bailey,

My name is Lani Disorda. I am a mother of soon to be two living in Bennington, VT and I am emailing you today ahead of the rally tomorrow and the vote on Tuesday to express my support of stricter gun regulations in Vermont. I fully support raising the age limit to purchase, much more thorough background checks, a more direct hand in regulation of personal sale, if not a full ban on personal sales, confiscation of firearms from perceived threats. I do not support the idea of arming teachers, not that that is necessarily on the table.

I just hope my voice is heard and that my representatives do their best in creating a safer state for us all and safer schools for our children despite NRA propaganda and posturing.

Best,
Lani Disorda

.....
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2018 1:03 PM

To: Debbie Ingram; glyons@leg.state.vt.us; Christopher Pearson; Michael Sirotkin; Jessica Brumsted; William Lippert; Terence Macaig; Jim McCullough; Kate Webb; Michael Yantachka; Philip Baruth; Becca Balint; dsears@leg.state.vt.us; Joe Benning; David Sharpe; Albert Pearce; Maxine Grad; Chip Conquest
Subject: CVSD Resolution on Gun-Related Violence Prevention

CVSD Resolution on Gun-Related Violence Prevention
March 20, 2018

To: Governor Phil Scott, Attorney General TJ Donovan, Lieutenant Governor David Zuckerman, Speaker of the House Mitzi Johnson, Senate President Pro Tempore Tim Ashe

From: Champlain Valley School District School Board

Re: Resolution Related to Action on Gun-Related Violence Prevention
Expressing the sense of the Champlain Valley School District Board of Directors that the Vermont Legislature must enact safer firearms legislation in an ongoing effort to curtail the deaths and injury caused by firearms;

Whereas, gun related violence at American public schools, including frequent mass shootings like the recent outbreak in Parkland, Florida in which 17 staff members and students were killed, have reached epidemic levels; and

Whereas, our schools in Vermont are not immune to both the possibility and reality of such gun related violence and mass shootings, as evidenced by marking the 10-year anniversary of the Essex School shooting, significant threats of violence last year against students at South Burlington High School, and most recently the thwarting of a plan for a mass shooting at Fair Haven High School; and

Whereas, Vermont school children spend increasingly more time participating in lock-down and active shooter drills (now more common than fire drills), detracting from time spent on critical classroom learning and invoking significant anxiety and fear among students and teachers; and

Whereas, Vermont school districts are forced to spend larger and larger portions of their limited budgets on security-related facilities upgrades, security personnel, trainings, and drills to potentially defend our students, staff, and community members against military-style attacks on our students, staff, and school buildings; and

Whereas, students have the right to attend school free from the fear of death or injury as a result of gun-related violence; and

Whereas, parents have the right to send their children to a school in which they have confidence in their children's physical, psychological, and emotional safety; and

Whereas, communities have a right to protection against mass violence and unbelievable tragedy as the result of gun-related violence; and

Whereas, we are local elected officials charged with ensuring the education, health, and safety of students on behalf of parents and our community, and

strive to build interpersonal, school, and community connections so that every student feels valued and safe,

We, the Board of the Champlain Valley School District, declare it resolved that our elected officials in the Vermont House and Senate must pass common-sense gun violence prevention legislation during the 2018 legislative session, and that Governor Scott must sign such legislation into law to take effect immediately.

Four relevant pieces of legislation are currently before the VT House or VT Senate: S.6 related to universal background checks; H.422 related to removing guns from the scene of a domestic violence crime; S.221 related to enabling law enforcement officers to get an order to remove guns when a person shows signs of threat and danger; and H. 876 related to prohibiting bumpfire stocks for firearms. We recognize your swift actions on these bills in the aftermath of the Florida shooting, and urge further attention of these and similar bills.

We urge the drafting and passage of legislation that has been proposed in previous legislative sessions, which would prevent the possession, sale, or manufacture of military-style "assault weapons." Such weapons are commonly used in mass shootings at schools resulting in tragic and widespread devastation and death.

In addition, we support the Department of Health and Human Services in their valuable work with the social determinants of health. We believe our strong public education system depends on adequate funding of programs for the prevention of community violence.

We recognize that inaction is ethically or morally unacceptable. We ask you to join us in helping to keep our students and schools safe from gun-related violence.

Signed:

Lynne Jaunich
Kelly Bowen
Josilyn Adams
Erin Brady
Russ Caffry
Dave Connery
Colleen MacKinnon
Ray Mainer
Barbra Marden
Jeff Martin
Amanda Marvin
Brendan McMahon

cc: Senators Debbie Ingram, Ginny Lyons, Christopher Pearson, and Michael Sirotkin
Representatives Jessica Brumsted, William Lippert, Jr., Terence MaCaig, James McCullough, Kathryn Webb, Michael Yantachka,
Senators Phil Baruth and Becca Balint, Senate Education Committee
Senators Dick Sears and Joe Benning, Senate Judiciary Committee
Representatives Dave Sharpe and Albert Pearce, House Education Committee
Representatives Maxine Grad and Charles Conquest, House Judiciary Committee
Secretary Rebecca Holcombe, Vermont Agency of Education
Nicole Mace, Vermont School Boards Association

Jeff Fannon, Vermont-National Education Association
Jeff Francis, Vermont Superintendents Association

Barbara Anne Komons-Montroll
Director of Communications and Public Relations
Champlain Valley School District
802-985-1916

From: Amy Brady <amylbrady@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2018 1:30 PM

To: Maxine Grad; Selene Colburn; Kimberly Jessup; Martin LaLonde; Kiah Morris; Barbara Rachelson

Subject: thank you

Hi,

Thank you for your support of S.55. I greatly appreciate your attention to this topic. I could write a novel explaining my personal history and what I am hearing from Vermont youth about gun violence - but I imagine you have much to read.

So for now - thank you.

Amy

From: Susan Werntgen <swerntgen@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2018 2:14 PM

To: Maxine Grad

Subject: Gun Control

Maxine,

Thank you for your work towards stricter gun control in Vermont. S.55 is a step in the right direction but, in my opinion, does not go far enough.

My daughter teaches in Essex Junction and was at an "in service" in August of 2006 when a teacher was shot and killed at Essex Elementary School. I heard the news not knowing if my daughter was the victim. She could have been...

The recent threat of a mass school shooting in Fair Haven is clear proof that Vermont is not immune from such tragedies.

Restricting gun ownership to responsible adults and banning the sale of military grade weapons is needed. Unlike identifying and treating mental illness, this is the easy part.

Please continue in your efforts to make Vermont safe from gun violence.

Thank you,

Susan Werntgen
Moretown

From: Mari Cordes <mari.vermont@gmail.com>
Subject: Gun legislation
Date: March 23, 2018 at 11:34:34 AM EDT
To: Fred Baser <freddieb.fb@gmail.com>
Cc: Mari Cordes <mari.vermont@gmail.com>

Dear Fred:

I am writing to ask you to support S.55 with expanded background checks (to include private sales, though I wonder how it will be enforced), banning bump stocks, rounds greater than 10, and increasing the purchasing age to 21 but agree that there should be exemptions for those taking a hunter safety course (thinking about all of the VT families that teach responsible gun use to their children). Re: the police/military - they don't purchase their own firearms for work, do they?

I also ask you to support the red flag bill and the domestic violence bill.

Thank you,

Mari

Mari Cordes, RN
802.989.9267(c)
maricordes.org

From: Mari Cordes <mari.vermont@gmail.com>
Subject: Gun legislation
Date: March 23, 2018 at 11:35:10 AM EDT
To: Dave Sharpe <dsharpe@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: Mari Cordes <mari.vermont@gmail.com>

Dear Dave:

I am writing to ask you to support S.55 with expanded background checks (to include private sales, though I wonder how it will be enforced), banning bump stocks, rounds greater than 10, and increasing the purchasing age to 21 but agree that there should be exemptions for those taking a hunter safety course (thinking about all of the VT families that teach responsible gun use to their children). Re: the police/military - they don't purchase their own firearms for work, do they?

I also ask you to support the red flag bill and the domestic violence bill.

Mari Cordes, RN
802.989.9267(c)

Hi,

My name is Terri Hays from Bennington, Vt. & I would like to see something done to protect the innocent people from gun violence, mass murder, etc. Especially school kids who seem to be the target lately.

We need more Mental Health depts around the country to help people that have issues & figure shooting people will help them feel better.

I believe guns should be taken away from someone who is violent towards other people until they get control of their emotions.

Ban AR-15's, Bump stocks, there is no use of these unless we are at war. Which some people think they are.

Stop mental health people from purchasing guns they have no control on their emotions, also get rid of the Violent Video Games that kids play who learn not to have remorse on their actions when they do it in real life, they think it is a game!

We need the legislators of our state & country to step up to NRA & protect the people of this country because NRA doesn't care about people or animals, they only care how many guns they can get out into the public.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter! We NEED to do SOMETHING! Please!

Terri Hays

From: Connie van Eeghen <richmondcove@comcast.net>

Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 12:05:26 PM

To: Maxine Grad

Subject: Current Gun Legislation - Supporting

Hi Maxine Grad,

I am not one of your constituents but as you are the Chair of the House Committee on Judiciary, and I have no representative on that committee, I want you to know that I strongly support

S.55, with its new addition of limiting magazine capacity S.221, now folded into H.675
H.876

If I can do anything to help provide additional support for these bills becoming law, please let me know.

Connie van Eeghen
255 Mary Drive
Richmond, VT 05477
802-373-6286

From: Jackie McCuin <jem3329@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 10:53 AM
To: Maxine Grad
Subject:

Please support the LaLonde Amendment to S.55.

Jackie McCuin and Tom Gilbert
Weathersfield

.....
I am a hunter and a livestock owner. I am also a DV survivor.

I fully support police removing firearms from those who present eminent threat and from domestic abuse "hot" situations as well as from domestic abusers who are under investigation or have been charged but not yet convicted or found not-guilty.

I support raising the age of gun purchasers to 21 from 18, recognizing that youngsters that hunt will be gifted a rifle or shotgun.

I support banning bump-stocks and limiting clips to 10 cartridges.

I support S55 WITHOUT the NRA Eddie Eagle amendment that would force K-4 graders to sit through gun classes, but I support non-NRA-promoting state gun safety classes be available to students of all grades with parental opt-in.

Charen Fegard
Berkshire, VT

.....
Please record my support for S.55. It is imperative that the legislature pass this common sense gun control measure. It would be even better if the bill included a ban on assault style weapons, but this will do for a start.

Seth A. Steinzor
5 East Terrace
South Burlington, Vermont

.....
I, along with my family and friends, thank you for your consideration and urge your support of S.55.

My 6 year old son attends school in South Burlington. I teach the general public in a walk-in center. My parents and in-laws live in Chittenden County, and we all want responsible gun laws to reduce the risk of gun violence in Vermont.

I also ask that you support the removal of the Eddie Eagle Gun Safe Program amendment. I will happily give my son the opportunity to learn how to operate a rifle safely, when the time is right, and not as part of his school day.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ferrara
South Burlington 05403

.....
From: Eliza Cain <eliza@redhenbaking.com>

Sent: Friday, March 23, 2018 1:57 PM

To: Eliza Cain

Subject: Please VOTE YES on S. 55

I believe that this bill would improve our chances of saving the lives of domestic violence victims.

Thank you,

Eliza

Eliza Cain

Red Hen Baking Co.

802-223-5200 X13

.....
Greetings,

I am reaching out on the urgent matter of public safety following this last school shooting in Florida and the recent threat right here in Vermont. These are concerning not as isolated incidents, but rather as part of an ongoing cycle in which tragic acts of violence are committed with deadly speed and many, many innocent victims. Too often in the past, these incidents have resulted in little or no measurable action. I have written to Carolyn Branagan and Carl Rosenquist as my elected officials, and write to you now, to ask that you **take measurable action to prevent** the next tragedy.

As a teacher, the morning after the latest school shooting, I looked into the faces of parents dropping their preschoolers off to me and thought "I cannot keep your children safe." We do the drills and we teach the children to hide behind a bookshelf, to stay silent (not quiet), not to be frightened when the lights are turned off and the shades drawn. Not to worry when the principal comes around and jiggles the doorknob ("He's going to try to play a trick on us. When we hear the noise, we have to stay silent"). But the locked door won't keep them safe. The bookshelf won't. How will I protect 15 children from mass devastation from a firearm in the wrong hands? Why am I expected to teach children to survive in a violent world, and my country isn't expected to make the world less violent? These questions are not distant or political. They are our lives.

I am strongly in support of laws such as S. 55 that include expanded background checks, banning high capacity magazines and bump stocks, and increasing the minimum age to purchase a gun. I believe we also have to combat poverty and health care access as the root causes of violence. These measures make me safer as a citizen and make my children safer when they are at school, at the movies, in church, and at concerts. **WE MUST BE PREVENTATIVE.** The ease with which devastating action can be taken with a firearm requires that we have laws that promote responsible gun ownership and policies and practices that prioritize the safety and well-being of citizens.

Thank you for your attention and action on this important topic.

Emily Grimes
Georgia, VT

.....
In s55 I support universal background checks and the expanded background checks. I support raising the age to purchase firearms to 21 (with the exception of your very basic shotguns and rifles which would be used for hunting). I support a limit on high capacity magazines and bump stocks.

I support s221.

I support h422.

Kristin Mack
Bennington Vt 05201
802-688-7954

.....
I am writing I support of stronger gun safety legislation. I strongly support each of the acts up for vote: H.151, H.422, H.876, S.6, S.55, S.80, S.221. The rights of gun owners do not outweigh the right to not be shot.

My son is a toddler and I am already scared about the prospect of sending him to school. As citizens of the United States, we should not have to fear for the safety of our children in a place of learning.

For the record, I do think we need to strengthen mental health support in this country, but I do not think this is the root of what is killing our children.

Caitlin Roberts
Bennington, VT

.....
Hello,

As a resident and a registered voter of Huntington, Vermont I am writing to express my support of bill S.55 as it passed out of committee. I feel this is a vitally important bill and we are at a point in history that we need to have better controls on the purchasing of guns. Please support this bill.

Thank you,
Rosemary Christie
225 Handy Road
Huntington,VT 05462

.....
Dear Representative Morrissey,

I am writing to express my strong support of bill S.55 as passed out of committee. The time has come for common sense gun reform, and this bill is a step in the right direction. I will be watching your vote and will not support you in the future if you vote against it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Thomas Haley III
Bennington, VT

Please take note of my whole-hearted support for this bill as it nears a critical vote. If necessary, please forward this msg to my House Representatives, Jay Hooper and Ben Jickling. Gun rights are important in Vermont, but not more important than this legislation that guarantees a significant level of gun safety.

--

Elizabeth Templeton
Brookfield, VT

--singfasola44@gmail.com

From: Stephanie Winters <swinters@vtmd.org>
Subject: Please Support S.55 as passed by the House Judiciary Committee
Date: March 23, 2018 at 9:17:38 AM GMT-4

The American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter and the Vermont Medical Society would like to commend the House Judiciary Committee for including additional amendments to S.55 in an effort to reduce the risk of gun injury and death in Vermont. Measures that prohibit the sale of particularly medically devastating ammunition is an important part of that effort along with universal background checks and raising the minimum age for purchasing firearms to 21 years of age. However, we are concerned with the recent amendment requiring Vermont children to view the National Rifle Association's Eddie Eagle program video as this training program has not been shown to work and may falsely reassure parents that their children are safe around firearms.

Unintentional firearm injuries are a serious problem among children and adolescents. Often, both the victim and the shooter are children. Unfortunately, firearm safety courses such as the NRA's Eddie Eagle program have been found to be ineffective at preventing unsafe firearm behavior among children. Children receiving the training are just as likely to not tell an adult about the presence of a firearm, to handle a firearm, and to pull the trigger when compared with children not undergoing the course. Health professionals do not recommend these courses to families given the lack of evidence that they are effective. In addition, parents may be falsely reassured that their children would act safely around a firearm. Children are naturally curious and will always be interested in exploring their environment. An educational course will not prevent school-aged children from handling firearms. The most reliable way to keep children safe is to prevent them from accessing firearms. Research shows that firearm injuries among children and adolescents can be reduced by the consistent practice of locking a firearm unloaded and locking ammunition separately from the firearm.

Intentional firearm injuries due to assault or suicide attempt are often the result of impulsive acts. Research shows that young adults who attempt suicide impulsively tend to use more violent means, such as firearms, and that young people who complete suicide are significantly more likely to be experiencing a short-term crisis. Outcomes of assault or suicide attempt vary widely depending on the means or methods used. Use of firearms in either case is more likely to result in permanent disability or death compared to other means. Limiting access to firearms among those at risk for hurting themselves or others is an important way to prevent injury, homicide and suicide.

Pediatricians and physicians counsel families on firearm safety. This includes educating about the risk of having a firearm in the home and methods to reduce risk with safe firearm storage. For families with adolescents at risk for self-harm or for harming others, we recommend removing firearms from the home, at least temporarily. Recommending safe storage or removal of firearms can be ineffective if adolescents can purchase their own firearm legally without consent or knowledge of the parent. Raising the minimum age for purchasing firearms to 21 years of age is one important part of the effort to reduce firearm injury and death.

The Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, representing over 200 Vermont Pediatricians, and the Vermont Medical Society, representing over 2000 Vermont Physicians and Physician Assistants supports the passage of

S.55 including amendments regarding universal background checks, raising the minimum age to purchase firearms to 21 and the prohibition of large capacity ammunition feeding devices. However the organizations do not support the amendment requiring Vermont children to view the NRA Eddie Eagle video given lack of evidence of effectiveness.

Stephanie

Stephanie Winters
Deputy Executive Director, Vermont Medical Society
Program Administrator, Physician Leadership, Vermont Medical Society Education and Research Foundation
Executive Director, American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter
Executive Director, Vermont Academy of Family Physicians
Executive Director, Vermont Ophthalmological Society
Executive Director, Vermont Orthopaedic Society
Executive Director, Vermont Psychiatric Association
Executive Director, Vermont Society of Anesthesiologists
Executive Director, American College of Surgeons Vermont Chapter

From: Regina Trailweaver <rtrailweaver@gmail.com>

Subject: gun control please!

Date: March 23, 2018 at 8:32:25 AM GMT-4

To: Maxine Grad <maxjg@gmavt.net>

Hi Maxine,

I imagine you will vote in favor of gun control but just wanted to let you know that I support all gun control measures from universal background checks to banning all assault weapons.

Thank you,

Regina Trailweaver
