



Testimony on S.55
An Act Relating to the Disposition of Unlawful and Abandoned Firearms
House Committee on Judiciary
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By statute, the Center is responsible for promoting the rights and needs of Vermont's crime victims. Each year, the Center's Victims Compensation Program pays thousands of dollars on behalf of the surviving families of homicide victims to help cover the cost of funerals, headstones, crime scene clean-up, and mental health counseling to cope with grief.

Our criminal justice system, and our society as a whole, benefit whenever we shift the paradigm from simply responding to crime and its aftermath to enacting evidence-based reforms shown to actually prevent crime from happening at all.

The Center applauds the leadership of both chambers—including this Committee—Attorney General Donovan, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Cole, and Governor Scott for their support of proactive approaches to firearm storage and disposal, firearms removal, and homicide and suicide prevention. Each of the provisions included in S.55, as passed the Senate, represent significant steps forward.

Thank you for considering this bill.