

Hi Peter,

Thank you for your vote last week. Please keep up the good work and vote yes on S55 to ban bump stocks, raise the minimum gun purchase age to 21, mandate background checks on all gun purchases, and ban the sale of magazines holding more than 10 bullets. I would also like to voice my strong support for a ban on assault rifles and the ability to confiscate weapons from those who are an immediate danger to themselves or others.

Thanks so much,
Jean Terwilliger

Jean Terwilliger
137 Cobb's Corners Rd.
Cornwall, VT 05753

Brian, please change your vote to YEA on S.55. As I have said this morning in a voice message to your office phone, Vermont must make private gun sales as inconvenient as possible FOR PUBLIC SAFETY reasons. In 2007 my niece in New Orleans was murdered and her husband wounded by a young doped-up home invader who had a handgun from who knows where. As much as I admire your positions on other matters of public policy, I will not vote for you to hold public office again if you vote NAY once more on S.55. Passage of this bill is the least Vermont can do FOR PUBLIC SAFETY.

David Lewis

102 Ways Lane

PO Box 373, Manchester, VT

Dear Representative Grad,

I support S.55, as it prohibits large capacity ammunition feeding devices, but does not take firearms from lawful owners, even those proposed to be outlawed by the bill. It also prohibits the sale to minors, except those who have passed VT or equivalent hunter's safety courses or are in the Guard.

Thank you for hearing from the people and for your work on this issue.

--

Joni Osterhaut
29 Old Foundry Rd
Orwell, VT 05760

Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 9:49 PM

To: Christopher Bray

Cc: Mike Bailey

Subject: vote yes S.55

Please vote YES to S.55 tomorrow, March 27.

Julie Berg
Middlebury, VT

To: Claire Ayer
Cc: Mike Bailey
Subject: VOTE YES on S.55

Dear Senator Ayer,

As a mother and as a classroom teacher in Middlebury at Mary Hogan School, please help protect our children. Please vote yes on S.55 tomorrow, March 27, the third reading of the bill. We need safer gun sense laws.

Thank you,

Julie Berg

.....
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 6:17 PM

To: Harvey Smith
Cc: Mike Bailey
Subject: Please vote yes on S.55

Dear Mr Smith,

I am writing to encourage you to vote YES on S.55. I believe It is time to start implementing some common sense solutions to try to turn the tide of gun violence and I believe the measures in this bill will help in addressing this situation, which currently seems to only be getting worse. Universal background checks, smaller magazines, banning bump-stocks, and raising the minimum age to buy a gun seem like small inconveniences for gun advocates, with the potential to make some big advances in safety in our state. The potential to save even one life in exchange for an enthusiast having to reload more frequently at the gun range is, I believe, a trade-off well worth it.

.....
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 5:13:19 PM
To: Amy Sheldon; Mike Bailey; Robin Scheu
Subject: S.55

Hi -

I'm just writing to say I support passing S.55. I don't want to wait until we have a school shooting here in Vermont before we make a change.

Thank you,
Lindsey Fuentes-George
(Middlebury)

.....
To: Harvey Smith
Cc: Mike Bailey
Subject: Please vote yes on S.55

Hi Harvey,

I just wanted to follow up to our conversation earlier to say that I strongly urge you to reconsider your position on S.55. I appreciate your support of legislation that helps law enforcement keep guns out of the hands of domestic offenders, but it needs to go beyond that if we're going to have a serious impact on the supply of dangerous weapons in the wrong hands. Universal background checks have been supported by a large number of experts and have worked in other states and countries.

Thank you for your time,

Amy Mason

Weybridge

Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 5:12:15 PM

To: Mike Bailey; Amy Sheldon; Robin Scheu

Subject: S. 55

Thank you both for being at the March For Our Lives and for all the work you have done to move us toward sane gun legislation in VT. Just writing AGAIN to make sure you have plenty of support on the record for S.55!

With Deep Gratitude,

Joanna Colwell

East Middlebury

To: Maxine Grad

Cc: Mike Bailey

Subject: I SUPPORT S.55

Hi, Maxine.

This is a message of SUPPORT for S.55.

I know I don't need to explain to you why this bill is so important. Just mark it down that this constituent SUPPORTS S.55.

Thanks for doing the hard work to get this bill to this point. You are much appreciated.

Dana Goss

Waitsfield

To: William Canfield

Cc: Mike Bailey; Ed Read; Maxine Grad

Subject: S.55

Good morning Mr. Canfield,

I am writing to you as I prepare to attend the March for Our Lives event in Rutland this afternoon, Saturday March 24.

Thank you very much for your attention to gun legislation in debate on the House floor yesterday. I am in disagreement with your votes and wanted to let you know where I stand on the proposed legislation.

It is time for a change in how we manage guns in our towns, states, and country.

I encourage you to fully support S.55 when it comes for a vote in the House on Tuesday, March 27.

- Please support expanded federal background checks for all private gun sales.
- Please support banning high capacity magazines.
- Please raise the minimum age to purchase guns from 18 to 21.

Thank you very much for your public service and your attention to these much needed changes to our gun laws.

Suzanne Young
189 Crystal Meadows
Bomoseen, VT 05732

To: Ed Read
Cc: Mike Bailey
Subject: S55

Dear Rep. Read,

I urge you to vote in support of S 55 today. I am in favor of stricter, sensible gun control laws in VT and all over the U.S.

Thank you for all the work you do for residents of MRV in Montpelier,

Sincerely,

Patricia Folsom
Waitsfield

To: Maxine Grad
Cc: Mike Bailey
Subject: S 55

Dear Rep. Grad,

Thank you for all the work you have done in support of S 55. I am strongly in support of stricter, sensible gun laws in VT and across the country.

Thank you for all you do for us, representing Mad River Valley and all of VT.

Your work is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Patricia Folsom, Waitsfield

To: Maxine Grad

Cc: brenna@brennabinteriors.com

Subject: Thanks! S-55

Dear Ms. Grad,

I wanted to thank you for both bravely casting the tie breaker vote in committee on moving S-55 to the floor and also voting "yes" for it to pass on Friday evening. Good luck on your work this week with S.221.

I hope next year Mr. LaLonde can better define his proposals for the 10 day waiting period and ban on assault rifles.

Best regards,

Jim Brockhausen

Sent: Sunday, March 25, 2018 3:35 PM

To: Maxine Grad

Subject: gun use reform

Rep. Grad,

As a former elementary school teacher, I am appalled that we have come to the point of proposing to arm teachers rather than passing sensible gun use legislation.

After all the massacres in schools, needless bloodbaths in churches, concerts, clubs and the ongoing violence that people of color have faced for way too long, I hope you and your colleagues see that there are reasonable ways to legislate controls on the use of guns so that the rest of us can be safe.

I hope any of your constituents who have bought the propaganda that any restriction on the use of guns constitutes a violation of their Second Amendment rights, might consider that rights come with responsibilities and what we are talking about needing is regulation that will ensure responsible gun use. Assault rifles and bump stocks were not what was being considered when the Founding Fathers passed the Second Amendment. We need regulation and we need it now to join the rest of our peer nations in the world.

That we have come to such a pass where we can't pass laws to keep our schoolchildren safe is in my view outrageous. To see a young teen today at the March for our Lives rally carrying a sign that says: "My parents want to attend my graduation, not my funeral" is heart-breaking and wrong and unfortunately a reality.

We need to change it. You have the power to do so. Please use it. **Please support S.55 with an amendment that bans bump stocks and high capacity magazines.**

Josephine Corcoran, LCMHC

To: Brian Keefe; Brian Keefe

Cc: Mike Bailey

Subject: S.55

Hi Brian

As your constituent, I am requesting that you represent me and support our students, our youth and their future in Vermont and the United States of America.

VOTE YES on S.55!!

Thank you,
Christina Thurston

To: James Harrison

Cc: Mike Bailey

Subject: Please support S.55

Hello Representative Harrison,

I am a Mendon resident and gun owner who supports S.55.
Please do the right thing and support the bill.

Thank you,
Tim O'Connor
97 Beechwood Farm Road
Mendon, Vermont 05701

Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 5:06 AM

To: Brian Keefe

Cc: Mike Bailey

Subject: Vote YES on S.55

Dear Brian,

I am requesting that you represent me and support our students, our youth and their future in America. VOTE YES on S. 55

Sincerely,

--

Ruth Annie Hoffman

PO Box 976

Manchester Center, Vermont 05255

To: Brian Keefe
Cc: Mike Bailey
Subject: S.55

Please VOTE YES on S.55.

Thank you, Anne Lemke, 114 Valley Pass, Manchester Center, VT 05255

Dear Representatives,

I am the safety officer for a childcare campus that has 80 children, ages 0-5, and 34 staff on site. 114 lives. I'm the one responsible for telling them what will keep them safest if someone entered our buildings with a weapon. I've thought about the impact of guns vs knives, baseball bats, chainsaws, rocks, bricks; high-capacity magazines vs a gun clip limit of 10 bullets; and assault weapon vs handgun. I can picture clearly the difference each of these would make to who lives and how many die based on location, time of day, staff preparedness, and typical preschooler behaviors. I know that if someone reached our front door with a semi-automatic assault weapon and multiple high-capacity clips, that person could kill 3 office staff and everyone in two classrooms in under 7 minutes before the rest of the building was able to react effectively: 34 children and 9 adults.

If Sandyhook was this generation's Columbine, someone out there is just waiting to up the ante. The only thing more heinous than killing 20 kindergarteners, is killing 34 children under the age of five.

Do not tell me this can't happen in Vermont. My son just graduated from Mount Anthony Union High School. After a football game in 2016 he returned to his pickup to find, written all over it, "Fuck Hillary" "Fuck N*****s" (he is black), and a series of swastikas and crude drawings of penises. Vermont is not Utopia, and we have some of the easiest gun access in the US. Some Bennington residents are subject to the whims of hate-filled gun-worshipping hotheads with visions of being wronged somehow, and I do not personally feel like the police have my back. For example, during a March for Our Lives event yesterday a man walked through the demonstrating crowd with an assault rifle strapped to his back, and an officer said to him "I'm on your side". No officer asked to see his weapon. No officer suggested that this may not be the time and place for demonstrating his right to open carry. If that had been my Black son, you can bet your backside he would have been stopped and disarmed, if not something worse.

Please give us STRONG regulations on guns. Background check for 100% of sales. Assault weapons ban. Smaller clips. Silencer ban. Bump stock ban. Licensing of owners. Red flag laws. Age limits. The whole nine yards, instead of the usual "do what you want in Vermont" (unless you're black or poor). Do not wait until there is a tragedy here, too. We don't need to be the next Parkland, or Sandyhook, or Aurora, or Virginia Tech, or Charleston, or wherever.

Sincerely,

Grace Winslow

Sent: Sunday, March 25, 2018 11:39 AM
To: Robert Helm; William Canfield; Mike Bailey
Subject: sensible gun control - S 55

Although your support for all of the provisions of S 55 was less than I expected, I hope you will stand with students, teachers, parents and grandparents and support it when it comes up for final reading this week. The NRA does not represent my views on guns and it is time for legislators to gain the courage to vote with the vast majority of Americans (and Vermonters!) to begin to stop the carnage on our streets, in our homes and in our schools. As you know, the Second Amendment and the Vermont Constitution do not provide for unlimited and unrestricted possession and use of firearms by citizens. S 55, as now amended, moves us in the right direction to return to a safer life for all.

Bill

William C. Kuehn
1226 Main Rd
West Haven VT 05743-9826

.....
Sent: Sunday, March 25, 2018 10:46 AM
To: Robert Helm; William Canfield; Mike Bailey
Subject: S. 55

Dear Bob and Bill,

I am writing to urge you to reconsider your opposition to legislation to help end gun violence. It is inconceivable to me that Bob supports devices such as bump stocks. And you both apparently voted nay on the other proposals. It is time for you both to take action to come up with effective ways to protect your constituents!

Sincerely,

Sandy Kuehn
West Haven

.....
To: Warren Kitzmiller; Mary Hooper
Cc: Mike Bailey
Subject: Gun safety - S.55

Dear Representative Hooper and Representative Kitzmiller,

Thank you so much for your "yes" votes on all sections of S.55 on Friday 3/23! As a mother, nurse, and Vermonter, I strongly support common sense gun laws, including universal background checks, restrictions on the amount of ammunition in a magazine, restrictions on people under 21 buying guns

and a ban on bump stocks. I hope one day we will be able to get to an assault weapons ban, but I know we aren't there yet and am grateful for the amazing progress S.55 represents. Please continue to fight for gun safety reform however you can.

Sincerely,
Andrea Thew
184 Main St
Montpelier VT 05602

To: Brian Keefe
Cc: Mike Bailey
Subject: S.55

I am strongly asking you both to represent me, as a Manchester constituent that you vote YES against unlawful and unnecessary firearms. With your YES VOTE AGAINST THESE ASSAULT WEAPONS, you are showing that you actually care about our children, our students and their future.

Claudia Leder-Bookspan

To: Brian Keefe
Cc: Mike Bailey
Subject: VOTE YES on S.55

Dear Representative Keefe,

I am writing to urge you to vote yes for S.55. Support our students, our young people and their future.

Thank you,
Stephanie Moffett-Hynds
286 Private Hill Road
Arlington, VT 05250

PS

I was really, really hoping to see you at the March for Our Lives today in Manchester. It was an impressive, uplifting gathering of over 150 community members. I hope you are listening.

From: Jennifer [mailto:jnelson@pivot.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 24, 2018 6:07 PM
To: Joe Benning; Jane Kitchel; Mike Bailey; mmartell@leg.state.vt.us
Subject: Re: S.55 in VT Legislature

Thanks for this explanation. I want to read it over and think about it and appreciate you taking the time to thoroughly respond. Haven't ever done this before, because, as a former legislator, I felt strongly

that we had much more information on which to base our decisions. Have a good rest to the weekend and I'll be back in touch. Jenny

From: Joe Benning
Sent: Saturday, March 24, 2018 8:03 AM
To: Jennifer ; Jane Kitchel ; Mike Bailey ; mmartell@leg.state.vt.us
Subject: Re: S.55 in VT Legislature

Okay Jen, I'm curious. You are intelligent, caring and have a long history in this state with wonderful family ties. So I seriously value your opinion. After studying carefully the 17 most known mass shootings in this country since 1966, I know that 15 of the eighteen shooters passed a background check. That includes the most recent Parkland shooter and the almost shooter here in Fair Haven. Of the three that didn't, two of them (Kleibold and Harris at Columbine) got their weapons through a straw purchaser who passed a background check. (They were too young to purchase weapons.) The last one (Adam Lanza at Sandy Hook/Newtown) took the weapons from his mother after killing her, and she had passed background checks when purchasing the weapons her son used.

So my curiosity is up and I'm seriously interested in hearing your thoughts. What is there that a background check would do to prevent the next mass shooting, given that there is no evidence at all that this prevented any of the mass killings we are all talking about? I'm also curious as to why you would not be able to sell a gun to your son-in-law without a background check, as would be prevented by the language of the current bill. Finally, recognizing that there is no way to enforce this bill without voluntary cooperation with the law, what is it that you believe this law will prevent criminals bent on mayhem from doing here? (I'm keeping in mind that this new law would only force tens of thousands of normally law-abiding citizens to go through the time and expense of seeking out an FFL and paying whatever fee they charge to comply.) Your thoughts?

And just so you know, I don't own a gun. Never have. Probably never will. I'm also not a member of the NRA and I've never accepted a campaign donation from them.

Joe Benning

State Senator & Minority Leader

Caledonia District

From: Jennifer Nelson
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2018 4:39:49 PM
To: Jane Kitchel; Mike Bailey; Joe Benning; mmartell@leg.state.vt.us
Subject: S.55 in VT Legislature

I urge you to keep the language in place for background checks for anyone purchasing a firearm. Thank You. Jennifer R. Nelson PO BOX 346, Home Acres Farm, Ryegate, VT 05042

To: Brian Keefe

Cc: Mike Bailey

Subject: Vote yes on S.55

I am requesting that you represent me and support our students, our youth and their future in America.

Vote yes on S.55

Thank you,

Scott Buckner

167 Cottage Street

Manchester Center, VT 05255

To: Brian Keefe

Cc: Mike Bailey

Subject: Vote Yes

I am requesting that you represent me and support our students, our youth, and their future in America. Guns may not be viewed as a problem in Vermont, but even a single event where a student takes a gun to a school and opens fire will change that. On top of that, halting the use of Vermont as a source of guns to be taken to other states, and sending a message that you support the movement going on across the nation are both worthwhile reasons to vote yes on this bill in their own right.

VOTE YES on S.55

Thank You,

Nate Williams

Please vote YES on S.55 for everyone's safety!

Susan Hinkel

104 N. Main St, Danby, Vt 05739

To: Brian Keefe

Cc: Mike Bailey

Subject: S.55

VOTE – YES on S.55

I am requesting that you represent **me** and support our students, our youth and their future in America.

Cathy Hill

300 Jennifer lane
Manchester Ctr., VT 05255

To: Mike Bailey; Warren Kitzmiller; Mary Hooper
Subject: Thank you for supporting S.55

Hello Montpelier Representatives,

Thank you very much for supporting bill S.55. We need common sense gun control.

-Daemmon Hughes

Montpelier, VT

To: Brian Keefe
Cc: Mike Bailey
Subject: Vote yes on S.55

I am requested to represent me in support of students, are youth and their future in America.

Good morning Mr. Helm,

I am writing to you as I prepare to attend the March for Our Lives event in Rutland this afternoon, Saturday March 24.

Thank you very much for supporting the legislation banning bumpstocks yesterday.

It is time for a change in how we manage guns in our towns, states, and country.

I encourage you to fully support S.55 when it comes for a vote in the House on Tueaday, March 27.

- Please support expanded federal background checks for all private gun sales.
- Please support banning high capacity magazines.
- Please raise the minimum age to purchase guns from 18 to 21.

Thank you very much for your public service and your attention to these much needed changes to our gun laws.

Suzanne Young
189 Crystal Meadows
Bomoseen, VT 05732

To: Brian Collamore; Peg Flory; Douglas Gage
Cc: Mike Bailey
Subject: S55

Hi,

I would like to show my support for S55. It is time to have realistic gun laws. This can be done without

infringing on our sportsmen and sportswoman.

Thank you,
Candy Jones
65 Church ST.
Rutland, VT 05701

We need better gun control.

Close any gun sale loopholes.

Limit magazine capacity. 3 to 5 should be plenty for hunters. Eleven is STILL too many. Maybe allow large-capacity guns to be shot at special shooting ranges only.

Better background checks and licensing / renewals, like driver's licenses?

Better mental and physical health support and services everywhere.

NO guns to teachers in schools. That's just a crazy notion that will not help, will not work, and teachers don't deserve that responsibility.

I sold guns at a local sporting goods store back in the late 70's, and nobody needed high-capacity semi-automatics for hunting, or anything else, back then, still don't.

Thank you.

Ray Crosier
North Bennington, VT

To: Ed Read <ERead@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: Mike Bailey <MBailey@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: I SUPPORT S.55

Hi, Ed.

Please note this message of SUPPORT for S.55.

I hope you will be attending today's march—and then voting YES to S.55 on Tuesday. Both will send a powerful message to the youth of Vermont that you as a lawmaker are behind them and are willing to do the hard work to protect them.

Thank you.

Dana Goss
Waitsfield

To: Kimberly Jessup
Cc: Mike Bailey
Subject: I Strongly Support S.55

Dear Kimberly,

As a Middlesex resident and voter, I am writing to implore you to vote in favor of S.55 and to do everything that you can to support sensible legislation to limit the potential for gun violence in our state.

Please vote in favor of universal background checks, raising the minimum age to purchase guns, banning bump stocks and banning high capacity magazines.

Our children's lives depend upon your vote.

Sincerely,

John Svagzdys

Sent: Saturday, March 24, 2018 7:07 AM

To: Kimberly Jessup

Cc: Mike Bailey

Subject: Support for S.55

Dear Kimberly,

I am writing to express my strong support for S.55.

I believe that America has become a reckless and dangerous place in which to live. I do not oppose hunting for food, but feel that our Gun culture (yes, also here in Vermont) has become sick and distorted.

I believe common sense gun control will go a long way to helping our country feel civilized again.

Please help make our children and ourselves safer.

Thank you for your help.

Amber Alexander

Middlesex

I am a Vermont resident writing to express my support for S. 55. I support banning bump stocks, expanding background checks, banning high-capacity magazines, and raising the minimum age to purchase a gun.

I would also support any legislation that would ban the sales of semi-automatic weapons and assault-style weapons.

My children, and all of Vermont's children deserve common sense gun reform.

Cara Robecheck

Montpelier, VT

Mr. Bailey,

Good Morning Sir. I am forwarding you this email to insure that it gets entered into the record for S.55 in opposition to the bill in any form. My thoughts on the matter are outlined below. I'm sending this to you in the event that the Gentleman that I emailed this to yesterday have not forwarded it along to you. Thank you for your time and your service.

-TJ Manton

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

From: **TJ Manton** <tjmantonjr@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Mar 22, 2018 at 11:49 PM

Subject: Senate Bill 55

To: JGannon@leg.state.vt.us, rsears@leg.state.vt.us, bcampion@leg.state.vt.us

Good Morning Gentlemen,

I write to you as a citizen of the State of Vermont, and as a constituent of yours. I am deeply concerned about the passage of S.55 as it was by the Senate, and that the House has added even more to it. Vermont is one of the safest states in the nation, and has some of the most freedom loving people and laws in the country when it comes to civil rights, basic human rights. You are about to change that with this Bill. It is a gross overstep, it is both in direct violation of the Vermont State Constitution, and the United States Constitution.

Chapter one Article 16 of the Vermont State Constitution protects the right of the people to bear arms for the defence of themselves and the State. The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, protects the Right of the People to Keep and Bear arms, and prevents the Government from Infringing upon that right. Mr. Gannon you have sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution of the State of Vermont, and to "not propose or assent to any bill, vote or resolution, which shall appear to you injurious to the people, nor do nor consent to any at or thing whatever, that shall have a tendency to lessen or abridge their rights and privileges, as declared by the Constitution of this State;" This you would be breaking by voting for this bill. Mr. Sears Jr. and Mr. Campion, you too have sworn an oath to the Constitution of the State of Vermont, the same oath that Mr Gannon took. Mr Scott, you as well have Sworn an oath to the Vermont State Constitution as well.

Gentlemen, it would be injurious to the people for this bill to pass. You have no right to dictate how someone is best able to defend themselves should the need arise, nor how best to raise their children. How best to conduct business between two private parties. In addition to all this you would be denying the ability for those that have reached the age of eighteen, those citizens that are eligible to vote, and are recognized as full adults with all the rights and privileges thereof, one of the basic and fundamental rights of a free state, the right to self defense. Since the states founding on July 9th, 1793, this right has never been denied to any citizen of the State of Vermont.

I urge you to consider carefully your decision with respect to this bill, and respect the rights of the citizens that entrusted you with protecting their freedoms, not to restrict them. Please vote no, and do not let this undermining of our civil rights become law.

Thank you for your time, and your consideration.

-TJ Manton
22 Manton Dr
Wilmington, VT

As a resident of Barre Town, I just wanted to let you know that I am against this draconian legislation S.55.

I don't understand how any of this legislation will keep the guns out of the hands of criminals, crazed killers or under aged thugs. It seems to place a huge burden on law abiding gun owners. As a law abiding citizen I am always trying to navigate these many laws for purchasing, selling and transporting legally. Many people who know nothing about these laws have no idea what it takes to be on the right side of the law while doing these things. Adding more onerous laws to people trying to follow the law isn't going to keep evil people from doing evil things. This law represents an unconstitutional usurpation of the US second amendment and the 16th amendment of the VT constitution .

I feel the legislature is looking in the wrong places for answers to these tragedies. All of these deranged killers have slipped through the cracks by law enforcement or by mental health issues. No matter how many weapons you ban, no matter how hard you try to keep weapons away from these deranged people, it only seems to keep good people from defending themselves. Criminals aren't going to follow the law and people with mental health issues don't care about the law. I seriously think the focus should be on these things. Whether we need support, counseling, monitoring or some other solution this is where the true issues lie. If these things can't be dealt with we should at least admit that the children should be protected in the school by armed officers. I am sure you and your colleagues are well protected by the police when you are in session, you probably have the bomb squad on hand and swat at your disposal. Why shouldn't our children be afforded this level of protection.

Please don't criminalize my rights.
Ken Alger

From: Gretchen Elias <gretchenelias@mac.com>
Subject: See you at the Statehouse for the vote on S.55
Date: March 23, 2018 at 7:54:53 AM EDT
To: Mary Hooper <maryshooper@gmail.com>, Warren Kitzmiller <warren@kitzmiller.com>

Hi Mary and Warren!

I'll be there this morning to watch the vote and show my strong support for UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS!

Looking forward to your YES vote (without the Eddie the Eagle amendment).

Thank you both for all your hard work!

Gretchen
9 North Park Drive
Montpelier VT 05602
802.223.6360

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to you to show my support for the proposed measures for background checks, raising the age, and all other efforts to make it more difficult for Vermonters to buy and use guns.

I am a South Burlington resident, and I am also a survivor of gun violence. Six years ago, I had five assault rifles pointed at my head during a home invasion. I was told I was going to die. I have PTSD and anxiety from this event and am in regular therapy to get past the flashbacks and memories. It has been incredibly hard for me to watch the news coverage about gun rights and gun control, and even harder to speak up about it.

But I am proud to see so many legislators and the governor working together on this issue and taking gun violence seriously. I could go on and on about the practical reasons why we should have stronger gun control. I also know there are powerful people with a lot of influence telling you these proposals are futile. Please remember there are also people like me. We deserve to be safer than the status quo. Our kids deserve better. Thank you to those who support gun control and who chose to make the world just a little bit safer.

Thank you,

Kate Bailey
So Burlington

.....
I am an active voter in Bennington County, Vermont.

As a teacher, and as a victim of gun violence, I very strongly encourage the STRICTEST possible controls over

automatic weapons, ban the bump stock, increase age to 21 and background checks for ALL, and more money to security forces to share information immediately about those at risk of harming themselves or others, in our state, in all states, AND in the Federal government.

We need YOU to become proactive in this issue. You may not get another chance, as many people consider this to be the most important crisis of our time.

STOP THE KILLING OF OUR YOUTH: IN SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, ON THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS.

THIS IS A SINGLE ISSUE DEAL MAKER/BREAKER FOR ME.

NOW IS THE TIME. THERE IS NO LATER.

NOW.

--

"Give the pupils something to do, not something to learn; and the doing is of such a nature as to demand thinking; learning naturally results." John Dewey

"We don't learn from experience. We learn from reflecting on experience." — John Dewey

Helen Fields

.....
As someone who has always lived with guns, I am writing in support of proposed gun control legislation. While gun control won't end all gun deaths, it is a part of a complex solution to a complex problem. It shouldn't be easier for people to buy, sell, and legally carry firearms than it is to buy, sell, and legally drive a car.

Laura McCaffrey

.....
To: Jane Kitchel; Mike Bailey; Joe Benning; mmartell@leg.state.vt.us

Subject: S.55 in VT Legislature

Importance: High

I urge you to keep the language in place for background checks for anyone purchasing a firearm. Thank You. Jennifer R. Nelson PO BOX 346, Home Acres Farm, Ryegate, VT 05042

.....
From: Tordis Isselhardt [mailto:imagesfromthepast@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, March 23, 2018 3:58 PM

To: Rachael Fields

Cc: Mike Bailey

Subject: S.55

Hello Rachel,

I'm writing in support of S.55.

I believe it will help reduce gun violence and encourage you to vote for it.

Thanks for your consideration.

Tordis

Tordis Ilg Isselhardt

110 Harrison Avenue

.....
To: Timothy Corcoran

Cc: Mike Bailey

Subject: S.55

Hi Tim,

I'm writing in support of S.55.

I believe it will help reduce gun violence and encourage you to vote for it.

Thanks for your consideration.

Tordis

Tordis Ilg Isselhardt
110 Harrison Avenue
Bennington, VT

Dear Representative Morris,

I am writing to express my strong support of S.55 as passed out of committee. The time has come to pass common sense gun control legislation, 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,

Thomas Haley III
Bennington, VT

Subject: Background Checks

Please add these to our VT laws
Peggyann Noel

Hello!

I am writing to urge you to vote yes on tougher gun control laws for our state. When the 2nd amendment was ratified, no one could foresee the killing power that it would one day result in. These laws need to be changed to represent the realities of 21st century weapons and their incredibly destructive power.

I was in Montpelier this past Saturday with my 11-year-old son to demonstrate our support for common sense gun laws in our state.

Please vote YES on the background check. Vote YES to ban bump stocks. Vote to raise the purchasing age to 21. Vote to ban the sale of ammo that holds more than 10 rounds.

Thank you so much!

Kate Simone

Winooski, Vermont

Hi Peter,

I'm writing to ask you to support S.55 when it comes to the floor, but also that you reject the version of the bill with the Sec. 10 amendment requiring preK to Grade 4 students be part of the NRA's "Eddie Eagle" program. NRA propaganda has no place in our schools, and studies show that gun safety courses for children do not actually increase their safety (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11943968>, <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/107/6/1247>). I would like to see your vehement opposition to this amendment, and your strong support of the bill overall.

More personally: We were heading to my first-grade daughter's music concert last month, held in the Leicester meeting hall where you visited us on town meeting day. My son was confused about where we

were going, and she explained it to him like this: "It's the place where you go if you do the evacuation part of a lockdown drill, because the walls are thick and the windows are high up and the doors lock really tight." There are a lot of ways to describe that beautiful old building; I dearly wish she'd had a different one in the forefront of her mind. She deserves to learn in as much safety as we can get her, and this bill - and the others coming your way - is one step in that direction. We own a gun, and I respect the long history of responsible gun ownership in Vermont; I believe that we can enact gun-control legislation that is in keeping with that history, not opposed to it.

Thanks,
Caitlin Gildrien
Leicester, VT

.....
Subject: Support for S.55

Good morning Senators Pollina, Brooks and Cummings,

I'm a constituent living in Barre City and would like to let you know that I strongly support the passing of S.55.

Thanks for your time.

Regards,

Joe Reil
redshark92@yahoo.com
802-839-9505

.....
Hello Mr. Sears,

I'm one of your constituents from Bennington. Please support S.55 and I will continue to support you.

Thank You-

Scott Smith

.....
Hello Mr. Champion,

I'm one of your constituents from Bennington. Please support S.55 and I will continue to support you.

Thank You-

Scott Smith

.....
Hello Rep. Fields,

I'm one of your constituents from Bennington. Please support S.55 and I will continue to support you.

Thank You-

Scott Smith

.....

Hello Mr. Corcoran,

I'm one of your constituents from Bennington. Please support S.55 and I will continue to support you.

Thank You-

Scott Smith

.....
Subject: Lalonde amendment to S.55

Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I urge all of you to support the common-sense gun control measures in this amendment. Vermont has made it this far with very little gun regulation, but the recent close call in Fair Haven is a wake up call: we can no longer remain laissez-faire on this subject.
Penny Benelli

Patricia G. Benelli
Dakin & Benelli, PC
PO Box 499
Chester, VT 05143
802-875-4000 (v)
802-875-4200 (f)

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Subject: Support for the LaLonde Amendment to S.55

Dear Representative,

Please make every effort to support the LaLonde amendment to to S.55. With the safety of all Vermonters at stake, the time is now to take decisive action on reasonable gun safety legislation. I recently became aware of the WHO statistic that all 82% of all people killed in gun violence in the world are killed in the U.S. This is unacceptable. We can and MUST do better.

Thank you for your work for all Vermonters,
Christie Allen
Shelburne, VT

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Dear Maxine,

Yesterday I testified in the judiciary room on my experience growing up on the border on Newtown, CT. It took the gunman 5 minutes to murder 26 members of my community with an assault weapon. Within 5 minutes he was able to murder 20 first graders and 6 educators. 5 minutes was all it took. I have seen the destruction and horror a mass shooting can bring to a community. The grief and horror never ends. I have seen what happens the day of a mass shooting when my teachers and peers were constantly on their phones waiting to hear if their loved ones were murdered. I have seen the aftermath and the fear that now lives in everyone there. I do not wish this on anyone. As someone who has lived through the destruction and horror, I am urging you to please support this Amendment. I do not want anyone here, in this great state that I am so fortunate to now

live in, to have to go through the horror of a mass shooting.

Thank you,
Madison Knoop

Hello Representative Grad

You are a responsible Representative doing important work to serve Vermonters of all ages, now and into the future. Your Committee has done diligent work on this bill. We all agree that background checks on gun sales makes sense and can save lives.

Everyone is watching and counting on you and trusted legislators to get this bill passed. Please continue to do all you can to get S.55 enacted into law. What a triumph it will be for Vermont!

I remember attending Snelling Leadership Institute with you, back in 1996 I believe. You are an amazing leader. I often see Mary Bronson, Madeline Mongeon, and Chris Bray from that group.

Keep up the good good work!!

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

As a gun owner and hunter, I fully support gun control measures that ban assault-style weapons, large capacity magazines, waiting periods and safe storage of firearm (mine are in a gun safe).

Getting weapons of mass murder off our streets and out of the hands of every day citizens is a step toward curbing mass shootings, which every one can agree needs to stop. Vermont demonstrate it's commitment to positive change (just like Connecticut, Massachusetts and other states) by enacting the gun laws being proposed.

Thank you for your service,

Ted Lamb

Worcester

House Committee on Judiciary members:

Please review and report out favorably House bill H.151 requiring "universal" background checks for the sale of all firearms, except as noted in the bill, as introduced by Representatives Michael Mrowicki and Johannah Donovan and others.

The time has come for us to take this minimal sensible step to protect the public from firearms getting into the hands of people who everyone would agree should not have them.

I understand that the objective of this bill is supported by an overwhelming majority of Vermonters.

I also understand that today the vast majority of "private" firearm sales are taking place between strangers, in parking lots all over the state. These sales being initiated by internet advertisements.

If you believe that public safety is enhanced by requiring a background check on the prospective purchaser of a firearm from a licensed dealer how you can condone endangering public safety by allowing unrestricted sales and purchase of firearms by other means?

This bill will not significantly change the problem of gun violence in Vermont, but it is a sensible, common sense move to reduce gun violence. It deserves your support.

Sincerely,
Peter Geiss
Underhill

Dear House Committee on Judiciary Members:

You have before you bill H.876, a bill to make bump-fire stocks illegal in Vermont.

What is the hold-up? Why hasn't this bill been reported out of committee?

I cannot conceive of a single rational argument not to make these illegal.

These bump-fire stocks are intended for no other purpose than to make extremely lethal assault type weapons even more lethal human killing machines.

Please protect us. Do your job. Be courageous.

Thank you

Peter Geiss

Underhill

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It has been encouraging to see the measures being taken in the Vermont legislature in recent weeks to draft bills geared toward common sense gun reform in our state. It has been encouraging to see our state's leadership break free from a party line political position in favor of changes that just make sense. I have left a message for the Governor expressing this support. I appreciate all of the diligent and quick action.

I would encourage you all to continue this progress and get these bills out of committee and passed. I support S.221, S.55 and H.422 and I hope you do too. I support any other measures that will take weapons of war out of the civilian population.

Tonight I'll be attending a forum in St. Albans called Survive Vermont that is a program that was created to educate Vermonters with information about what they can do to protect themselves and their family members in the event that they are confronted with an active shooter situation.

This is the world that we live in. Please do your part to change this.

Thank you,
Stina Booth
St. Albans VT

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Dear Chair Maxine Grad,

I made a mistake on my earlier email: I meant S.55, the bill that now includes stronger background checks on firearm sales and transfers, not S.66. The State Senate passed S.55, 17 to 13, last Friday, March 2nd, and it now crosses over to the House.

Opponents claim S.55 won't make a difference, but that's not true. Before Sandy Hook, Connecticut averaged about 92 gun deaths per year; after Sandy Hook, Connecticut passed a bi-partisan law to extend background checks and now averages about 58 gun death per year (Source: Ron Pinciario, Ex. Director of Connecticut Against Gun Violence).

Moreover, S.55 would prohibit private sales in parking lots, like the one Paul Heinz, the SEVEN DAYS reporter, did to buy the identical firearm used in the Orlando nightclub mass shooting, less than 30 hours after that blood bath, without any background check.

We will be safer with S.55. Thanks for your consideration now and for all you do on behalf of Vermonters.

Sincerely,
Bob Williamson
Board Member of Gun Sense Vermont
229 Quartz Mountain Way
South Woodstock, VT. 05071

Dear House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to urge you to move forward on S.55 which would provide universal background checks on all gun sales and increase the minimum age to purchase firearms. I also urge you to move forward H.876 which would prohibit the sale of bump stock attachments.

Thank you for your work to make our communities safer by working toward common sense gun control regulations.

Sincerely,
Dee Gish
Sharon, VT