

Saint James Episcopal Church

February 22, 2018

Senator Dick Sears, Chair
State of Vermont, Senate Committee on Judiciary
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Dear Senator Sears,

I write as a private citizen and an ordained leader of a faith community in the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, to register my strong support of **S.221 Extreme Risk Protection Order** and to urge you and your colleagues on the Judiciary Committee to vote this bill out of committee with your unanimous positive recommendation, sending it to the full Senate for prompt debate and action.

We have once again, witnessed tragic events in the mass school shooting in Parkland, Florida and the aftermath of sorrow and mourning from these preventable deaths of those so young, so full of promise. This bill offers a clear, focused and common-sense tool to assist law enforcement and a degree of protection for all citizens. I join my bishop, the Rt. Rev. Thomas Ely in encouraging this legislation as something that can be accomplished and has ample safeguards for the protection of second amendment rights. This bill addresses not only those who may pose a significant danger to others but also to themselves.

While the focus of this letter is on S.221, I also want to indicate my support for S.6 and H.422. Please take prompt and positive action on S.221. The lives of our children matter.

Sincerely yours,



The Rev. Kim Hardy
Priest-in-Partnership
St. James Episcopal Church
Essex Junction, VT