

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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## **Written testimony in support of H.610** – An act relating to firearms and domestic violence

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The **Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics**, representing over 200 Vermont Pediatricians, and the **Vermont Medical Society**, representing over 2,000 Vermont physicians, support the passage of a H.610 to protect Vermonters during times of heightened risk of violence.

Physicians know all too well that the outcome of violent act is highly dependent on the method used and firearms are especially lethal in an act of violence. An assault or a suicide attempt is made more lethal when a firearm is involved.

The likelihood of an act of violence occurring is dynamic. Violence prevention efforts focus on this fact. Restricting access to firearms during a suicidal crisis or during a high risk period in a domestic violence situation can save lives.

The **American College of Physicians**, representing 154,000 internal medicine physicians nationally, specifically addresses the topic of temporary relief from abuse orders and firearm possession in their 2018 position paper<sup>1</sup> on reducing firearm injuries and deaths in the U.S.:

*Individuals subject to domestic violence restraining orders, including temporary orders, should be prohibited from purchasing and possessing firearms and be required to surrender their firearms for the duration of the order.*

Physicians understand that no single piece of legislation will eliminate violence completely. But H.610 will keep Vermonters safer during times of heightened risk of violence.

1. Butkus R, Doherty R, Bornstein SS, for the Health and Public Policy Committee of the American College of Physicians. Reducing Firearm Injuries and Deaths in the United States: A Position Paper From the American College of Physicians. *Ann Intern Med.* 2018;169:704–707.