

From: JoEllen Tarallo <joellen@healthandlearning.org>

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To: Mitzi Johnson; Maxine Grad; Tom Burditt; Martin LaLonde; Kevin Christie; Selene Colburn; Kenneth Goslant; Nader Hashim; Kimberly Jessup; William Notte; Barbara Rachelson; Patrick Seymour; Jeanette White; Becca Balint; sara.coffey@leg.state.vt.us; Emilie Kornheiser; Tristan Toleno; Mollie Burke

Subject: Value of Gun Waiting measures

I am writing as Director of the Vermont Suicide Prevention Center, a public-private partnership dedicated to preventing suicide in Vermont to inform you of the value of a 24 hour waiting period between purchase and acquisition of a gun - from a suicide prevention perspective this is good public health policy. There is a strong evidence base for the value of lethal means restriction during a period of crisis. Waiting periods will likely deter people from buying firearms who have immediate objectives for using them for suicide. Vermont has a 30% above national average rate of suicide and we must think in terms of public well-being and safety. Vermont Suicide Prevention Center has the unfortunate experience of hearing about 2-3 suicides in Vermont each week, and we must take all measures to curb the tide.

Sincerely,

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