From: Battles, Benjamin
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:33 AM
To: Peninah Hodin
Cc: Clark, Charity; Vath, Amelia
Subject: Suggested edits to H.230

Dear Peninah,

Following up on Attorney General Clark's testimony this morning, here are some suggested edits to what I believe is the current draft (available <u>here</u>).

Sec. 2 Legislative Purpose – We recommend changing the first sentence of the purpose section to "The purpose of this legislation is to prevent death by suicide by reducing access by children and prohibited persons to operable firearms."

Sec. 3 Secure Firearms Storage – We recommend changing the language in the prohibition section (subsection (a)(1)) to state "A person shall not, within any premises that are under the person's custody or control, store or keep a firearm if the person knows or reasonably should know that a child or prohibited person will be able to access the firearm ...". This suggestion is for clarity and not intended as a substantive change.

Similarly, we recommend changing the language in the information distribution section (subsection (d)(2)) to state "Vermont law requires gun owners to securely store their firearms separately from ammunition in their homes and other premises under their control if a person prohibited from purchasing or possessing forearms or a child is likely to be able to access them. ..."

Thank you.

Best, Ben

Benjamin D. Battles (he/him) Chief, General Counsel and Administrative Law Division Vermont Attorney General's Office