

Written Testimony for the Joint Public Hearing on the Governor's Recommended FY27 Budget

Vermont House and Senate Committees on Appropriations

February 19, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Committees:

My name is Paul Manganiello, and I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the Governor's Recommended FY27 Budget.

I respectfully urge the Legislature to include a modest appropriation in FY27 to fund the statewide distribution of firearm trigger locks through the Vermont Department of Health as part of its injury prevention work. Trigger locks are a proven safe-storage tool.

Providing them statewide supports injury prevention efforts by reducing unintentional shootings, limiting youth access to firearms, and lowering the risk of self-harm. Safe storage saves lives, and trigger locks are one simple, practical component of that effort.

This is also a highly cost-effective intervention. Trigger locks are inexpensive, and a modest appropriation to support distribution through health clinics, community health partners, and injury-prevention programs would have measurable public health impact across Vermont. The Vermont Department of Health already oversees injury prevention initiatives. Funding trigger lock distribution aligns directly with that mission, and the budget process is the appropriate mechanism to authorize and support this work.

Most importantly, this proposal is non-controversial and commonsense. It does not regulate firearm ownership. It simply provides safety devices that promote responsible storage and protect Vermont families. As you consider the FY27 budget, this Joint Public Hearing is the right venue to ensure that line-item support for trigger lock distribution is included in the final appropriations bill.

Thank you for your service and for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Manganiello MD, MPH

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