

Dear Judiciary Committee,

I am a pediatrician who works in New Haven, CT and Chair of the Advocacy Committee for the CT Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. These are my personal views and do not reflect those of my employer.

I am writing to support HB 6667 An Act Addressing Gun Violence.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has published a policy statement on firearm safety.

The AAP advocates for:

- Increased investment in gun violence prevention research
- Strengthening of background checks
- Promotion of safe firearm storage
- Expansion of support for extreme risk protection orders

Gun violence is an epidemic in the US, and it is currently the number one reason for childhood death (image below).

Every day in the US, 83 children experience gun violence.

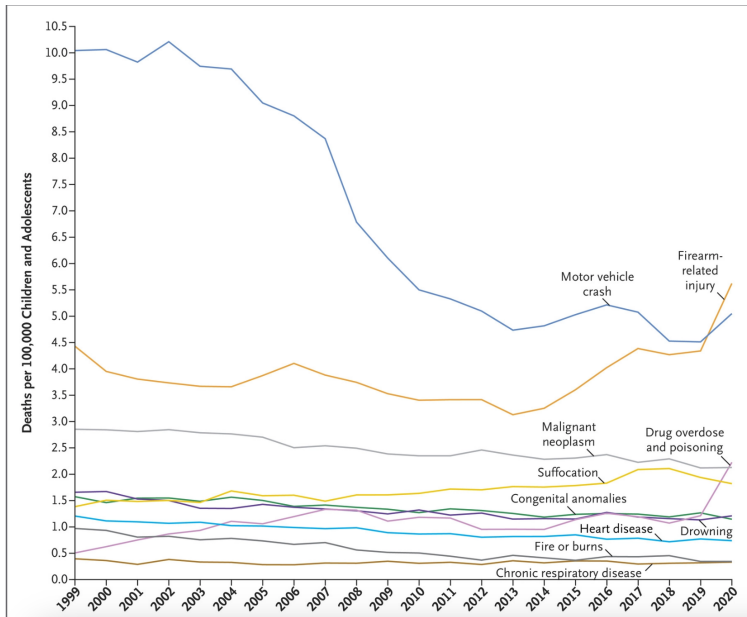


Figure 1. Leading Causes of Death among Children and Adolescents in the United States, 1999 through 2020.

Therefore, it is critical that CT elected officials act now in order to prevent gun violence so that our children can lead safer, healthier lives.

Thank you for considering my testimony. Please reach out with questions.

Sincerely,

Molly Markowitz, MD FAAP

Chair, Advocacy Committee

CT American Academy of Pediatrics Chapter

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