

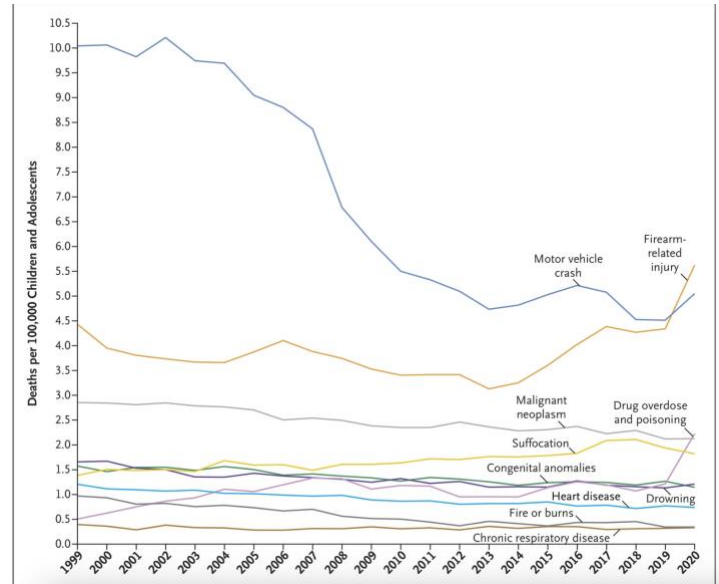
Dear Committee on Children,

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

**I am writing to support HB 6180 AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE OF FIREARMS BY OPERATORS OF FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES.**

[Firearm injury](#) is the number one cause of childhood death in the US (image). Every day in the US, [83 children experience a firearm injury or are killed](#).

*Image: Leading Causes of Death among Children and Adolescents in the United States, 1999 through 2020.*



[The American Academy of Pediatrics](#) advocates for increased investment in gun violence prevention research, strengthening of background checks, promotion of safe firearm storage, and expansion of support for extreme risk protection orders.

If firearms are present in a home childcare setting, it is critical that they be stored safely- unloaded and locked with the ammunition locked separately.

Given the significant risk of firearm injury to children, it is critical that CT elected officials enact policies that protect children from firearm injuries. HB 6180 would allow parents to make informed decisions about the potential for firearm injury when sending their children to a home childcare setting.

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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