



Good evening Chairperson and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Sarah Raskin, I am from West Hartford, and I am a neuropsychologist and Professor at Trinity College. My work involves research to improve the lives of people with brain injury. I see everyday the interplay of guns and mental illness. I would like to submit testimony in favor of greater safety regulations on gun ownership and use.

I am writing in support of SB 650 An Act Concerning Temporary Restraining Orders; HB 6848 An Act Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence and act HB 6962 An Act Concerning Firearm Safety. These three acts deal with two vital issues of public health and safety.

According to the most recent data, when women are the victims of homicide, they are killed by someone they know. Most often, these homicides are by an intimate partner in the course of an argument, not a stranger in a dark alley. Just having a gun in the home increases a woman's chance of being murdered during a domestic dispute by nearly three times.

In order to reduce gun violence against women we must focus on the issue of domestic violence. Connecticut law leaves a significant

gap in the protection of domestic violence victims from potential gun violence. At the moment when a woman decides to leave and asks for a temporary restraining order she is the most vulnerable. We must restrict people who are the subject of temporary restraining orders from possessing firearms and ammunition. Eight women were killed last year in Connecticut by an intimate partner, including Lori Jackson.

HB 6962 goes to the heart of another public health problem, one involving safe storage. Suicide by firearm killed 876 U.S. children and teenagers in 2013. The majority of suicides by teens happened with a gun belonging to a family member, usually a parent. And the majority of people who commit suicide with a firearm had a documented history of treatment for depression or other illness. Most unintentional shootings and school shootings also happened with a gun belonging to a family member. We hear of unintentional shootings of children almost daily, including the 11-year-old son of Vincent Pizzolato, that could be prevented with more vigilant safe storage and care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah A. Raskin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Sarah A. Raskin, Ph.D. ABPP/ABCN  
Department of Psychology and Neuroscience Program