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**Testimony by Kirsten Bechtel MD and Pina Violano, MSPH, RN-BC, CCRN, in  
Support of**

Raised Bill No. 6962, "**AN ACT CONCERNING FIREARM SAFETY.**"

Proposed Bill No. 650 "**AN ACT CONCERNING TEMPORARY RESTRAINING  
ORDERS**"

Governor's Bill No. 6848 "**AN ACT PROTECTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE**

Judiciary Committee

March 11, 2015

Submitted by Kirsten Bechtel MD and Pina Violano MSPH RN-BC CCRN

Senator Coleman Representative Tong and distinguished Committee Members:

We write to you as supporters of the aforementioned bills. As a Pediatric Emergency Department physician, an Injury prevention coordinator and trauma nurse and as mothers, we are beyond dissatisfied with the pervasive tragic events that children and other vulnerable populations in Connecticut experience related to unfettered access to firearms. There have been innumerable events in this state that have resulted in serious injuries and deaths due to gun violence in cases of Domestic Violence and improperly stored or handled firearms in the presence of children. The above Bills that are being proposed should strengthen our State's ability to protect these at-risk groups.

For the reasons above, we support Raised Bill No. 6962, Proposed Bill No. 650 and Governor's Bill No. 6848.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kirsten Bechtel MD*

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Section of Pediatric Emergency Medicine

Associate Professor of Pediatrics

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