

Public Safety and Security Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6034

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING PROJECT LONGEVITY.

Vote Date: 3/24/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/2/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Gun violence continues to be an issue in the state. It costs residents lives as well as millions of dollars to the taxpayers of the state on an annual basis. This legislation aims to assist Project Longevity in its mission to combat gun violence in the state.

Substitute Language

The bill will include the city of Waterbury.

Section 1, (i) at a minimum included how to provide clients served by Project Longevity Initiative with access to various educational avenues, such as but not limited to a university, community college, technical education and career system. No later February 1, 2022, the secretary will submit the plan to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly relating to public safety and security.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Sen. Martin Looney, State Senator – 11th District, President Pro-Tempore Connecticut General Assembly – This testimony offers support of HB 6034. Project Longevity is modeled after other successful community efforts throughout our country. It utilizes a three-tiered approach of Community Involvement, Social Services and Focused Policing to positively influence group dynamics. Project Longevity, as well as other projects, are necessary in our continued efforts to revitalize our urban centers.

Rebecca Garcia, Acting Chief of Police, City of Bridgeport – This testimony is offered in support of the proposed legislation regarding Project Longevity. The work of Project Longevity is critical in decreasing violent acts and gun violence in the City of Bridgeport.

Addressing chronic violence in urban areas, especially when regarding our youth, is one of our utmost concerns.

Luke Bronin, Mayor, City of Hartford – The testimony submitted was in support of the proposed legislation. The testimony believes in the program and notes that success requires consistent and adequate funding. Evidence supports that Project Longevity can be one critical component to reduce violence in the City of Hartford and other cities throughout the state.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Jeremy Stein, Executive Director, CT Against Gun Violence – This testimony is in support of HB 6034. The submitted notes that gun violence disproportionately affects communities of color. It notes that 56% of gun homicides are black while they only comprise about 10% of the state's population. Additionally, the Latin community affected 23% of gun homicides while they only represent about 14% of the state's population., The testimony also points to many other statistics regarding gun violence in urban areas.

Elana Atlas, Constituent, Westport – The testimony submitted supports the proposed legislation. It was noted that gun homicides in 2020 increased by 50% over the prior year. Additionally, it was noted that over \$1.2 billion is lost in the state due to gun violence. Black and brown people, woman and other marginalized groups are disproportionately affected by gun violence in the state.

Richard Boritz, Constituent, Southbury – The testimony submitted supports HB 6034. The testimony states that providing funding for Project Longevity pays off by saving lives of residents as well as saving tax payer dollars by reducing the prison expenses for the incarceration of our youth.

Dr. Kimberly Stoner, Constituent, New Haven – The testimony submitted supports HB 6034. It was noted that intervention groups, such as Project Longevity, have been successful if the government continued to maintain its commitment and funding to the programs. Investing in community-based violence prevention programs will save lives, reduce community trauma and save taxpayer's money.

Fifteen other pieces of constituent testimony were submitted in support of HB 6034.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

No testimony was offered.

Reported by: Richard O"Neil

Date: 4/6/2021