

Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5317

AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY CONCERNING THE FUNDING FOR AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COMMUNITY GUN VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

Title: AND PREVENTION PROGRAM.

Vote Date: 3/11/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/6/2024

File No.: 107

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Health Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill provides for a study of the sustainability of funding for the community gun violence intervention and prevention program. It is currently funded by The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), but these funds will be running out in 2026.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Manisha Juthani, MD, Commissioner, Department of Public Health (DPH)

DPH believes the study called for in this bill is unnecessary at this time. DPH, recognizing the need to measure the effectiveness of any program, will be posting a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an experienced evaluator to measure the effectiveness of this program. The FY 24-25 budget provides \$750 thousand to support program evaluation. DPH is in the process of operationalizing this funding for these purposes.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Melissa Kane, Executive Director, CT Against Gun Violence (CAGV)

CAGV supports exploring all avenues of funding for community-based programs aimed at reducing gun violence. Any effort to explore new funding should not jeopardize current funding sources. It is imperative that this effort begin as soon as possible.

Margaret Calano, Moms Demand Action CT (MDACT)

Ms. Calano believes this study can provide valuable learning and insight into how to reduce gun violence in our country.

Dr. Kerri Raissian, UConn

As the Director of the Center for Advancing Research, Methods, and Scholarship in Gun Injury Prevention at UConn, Dr. Raissian believes the bill is critical to creating the necessary infrastructure to ensure continued and effective prevention and intervention of community gun violence. But the more important component of this bill is the evaluation of the effectiveness of these programs.

Others Providing Testimony in Support

Erin Barthel
Ellen Crafts
Maggie Goodwin, SWAA CT
Amy Jones
Isaac Tate
Sue Berry
Elisabeth Ryan, Everytown for Gun Safety

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

There was no testimony submitted in opposition

Reported by: Dave Rackliffe, Asst. Clerk

Date: March 15, 2024