



**Testimony of Kevin Borrup, Executive Director of the Injury Prevention Center
at Connecticut Children's
to the Appropriations Committee regarding
HB 5032, An Act Adjusting the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027**

Monday, February 23, 2026

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and members of the legislature's Appropriations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my support for the inclusion of Gun Violence Prevention funding in *HB 5032, An Act Adjusting the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027*.

My name is Kevin Borrup, I serve as the Executive Director of the Injury Prevention Center at Connecticut Children's. Before commenting on this bill, I want to provide some background about our organization. Connecticut Children's is a nationally recognized, 214-bed not-for-profit children's health system driving innovation in pediatrics. With over 3,200 employees and more than 1,300 pediatric experts on our medical staff, we are the only health system in the state dedicated exclusively to the care of children. While we provide access to the most specialized pediatric care, we also know that only about 10% of children's overall health and wellbeing is determined by the access to and quality of the health care services they receive. For this reason, our Office for Community Child Health works to improve the wide variety of factors that influence a child's health, such as housing, transportation, food and nutrition, family support services, and community safety. Within the Office, the Injury Prevention Center's focus is to keep kids safe and injury free.

In 2023, the Connecticut Department of Public Health first began using allocated funds to support 8 community violence intervention programs. In 2024, they added a second round of funding to support 10 additional community violence intervention programs. These 18 programs support youth and adults around the state providing critical support in an effort to put an end to violence.

While the State of Connecticut has wisely invested in this work, this support is now needed more than ever. In the last couple of years, Connecticut's major cities have seen a decline in shootings and firearm deaths. The credit for these results is shared by many from law enforcement and public health to social services. However, without continued support for these critical community services, we cannot expect to see continued reductions in firearm violence in the State. Without this support through the Department of Public Health, many of these programs will lose critical capacity.

As the Executive Director of the Injury Prevention Center at Connecticut Children's I wish to convey my strong support of the inclusion of Gun Violence Prevention funding in this bill. This funding will provide life-saving supports to people-serving agencies and organizations across the State and serve to support safety for everyone in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. If you have any questions about this testimony, please contact Christian Petersen, Connecticut Children's Government Relations Manager at cpetersen@connecticutchildrens.org.