



**RHODE ISLAND KIDS COUNT**

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**Testimony Re: House Bill 7102 Sub A, An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses - Weapons**  
**House Judiciary Committee**  
**June 10, 2020**  
**Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony today. Thank you to the sponsor, Representative Serpa, and the co-sponsors, Representatives McEntee, McKiernan, and Blazejewski.

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT would like to voice its strong support for House Bill 7102, Sub A as Amended. This bill would prohibit the manufacturing, importation, sale, shipment, delivery, possession, or transfer of any firearm that is undetectable by metal detectors commonly used at airports and public buildings including 3D printed firearms.

Firearms are the second leading cause of death in the U.S. overall among children and teens. Of the 3,342 U.S. children and youth under age 20 killed by firearms during 2018, 84% (2,807) were ages 15 to 19. In the U.S., 2017 marked the highest number of child and teen gun-related deaths since 1998.



**Gun-Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits, Hospitalizations, and Deaths Among Children and Youth, Rhode Island, 2014-2018**

AGE	# OF ED VISITS	# OF HOSPITALIZATIONS	# OF DEATHS
1 to 14	52	4	0
15 to 17	48	12	4
18 to 19	53	20	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>8</b>

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, 2014-2018.

*Note: Effective October 1, 2015, the International Classification of Disease (ICD) codes changed from the 9th classification to the 10th classification, which may impact comparability across the years.*

Children and youth can experience gun violence as victims of firearm assaults, self-inflicted firearm injuries, or accidental shootings. Gun violence also can impact children and youth when someone they know is the victim or perpetrator of a shooting. Preventing access to guns is an important strategy for preventing firearm-related injuries and death in children and youth.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this testimony.