



**RHODE ISLAND KIDS COUNT**

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**Testimony Re: House Bill 7103 Sub B, 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 McKiernan, and the co-sponsors, Representatives Caldwell, Knight, McNamara, and Slater.

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT would like to voice its strong support House Bill 7103, Sub B as Amended – The Julie Lynn Cardinal Act. This bill would provide that applications to purchase firearms be sent by the seller to the police department the city or town where the purchaser lives.

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.

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.