

## **Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

**Bill No.:** HB-6180

AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE OF FIREARMS BY OPERATORS OF FAMILY

**Title:** CHILD CARE HOMES.

**Vote Date:** 2/18/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/6/2025

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

### **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Committee on Children

### **CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Rep. Liz Linehan 103<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

### **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill would require that childcare home operators notify parents and guardians that there are firearm(s) in their homes. The office of early childhood would also hold childcare home operators accountable via adverse licensing action if violations are present.

This bill seeks to encourage transparency from childcare home operators regarding what kind and number of firearms are present. Parents may feel uncomfortable with firearms either being present or present without their knowledge. Parents or guardians learning of firearms in childcare homes may choose to remove their children out of childcare.

### **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

[CT Office of Early Childhood, Commissioner, Beth Bye](#) proposes 2 recommendations revisions to the bill language. This language would address critical areas related to neglect or abuse. The first revision does not relate to an itemized list but a simple notification of firearms in the home. Secondly OEC recommends proposed language in section 2 be removed.

### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

[Connecticut Voices for Children, Research and Policy Associate, Ruchi Sheth](#) supports this bill because firearms continue to be the leading cause of death of children and teens ages 1-17. And other research shows the risks of firearms and gun violence. This act will hold childcare home operators who own guns accountable via safety and safe storage. As well as allowing parents and guardians to make more informed decisions about their childcare.

[Jennifer Ford](#) supports this bill because parents deserve and have the right to be fully informed of firearms when their children are professionally cared for. It is also important for in-home daycare inspections for homes with guns and their storage.

[CCDL, Outreach Coordinator, Dr. Walter Kupson](#) supports this bill because it is reasonable and right for a business to disclose to parents that there are firearms present in the family childcare home. There is no practical application in a parent understanding the number and type of firearms in a home. Having a registry is already untenable and now scores of parents and the public will know who possess what firearms.

[CT-APP, Chapter Advocacy Chair, Pediatrician, Molly Markowitz](#) supports this bill because firearm injury is the number one cause of childhood death in the US. The American Academy of Pediatrics advocates for increased firearm regulation. This bill would allow parents to make informed decisions about the potential of firearm injury when sending their child into a childcare setting.

[Jonathan Perloe](#) supports this bill because homes with firearms are more dangerous than those without. This bill would not ban firearms in the home but would require notification of parents. There are already CFOC standards in place that firearm owners notify parents and guardians of firearms on the premises.

[Michelle Noehren](#) supports this bill because research shows that unsecured firearms in homes increase risk of accidental shootings or injury. Proper gun ownership includes proper storage and safety. This bill isn't an infringement on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment but allows parents to make an informed decision.

[StatesUnited to Prevent Gun Violence, Executive Director, Jeremy Stein](#) supports this bill because even when firearms are securely stored there is an elevated risk to safety. 8 States require parental firearm notification and parents reserve the right to make an informed decision about where their child is when they have other responsibilities.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

[Anonymous](#) opposes this bill because it is a violation of 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights and personal firearm information should not be victim to government scrutiny. Childcare homes with firearms would be at risk due to making them a potential target and harming their business' image. There are already safety regulations in place for the secure storage of firearms.

[Anonymous](#) opposes this bill because it infringes on their 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights.

[John Buckley](#) opposes this bill because firearm disclosure would put childcare home operators at risk of gun thieves and is a violation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment.

[Mr-Connecticut Tax Payer, Roy Downey](#) opposes this bill because there is no need to disclose personal property to the public and via the same logic why aren't all other personal items to be disclosed. This disclosure of an itemized firearms list could also be seen as a "shopping list" for those with nefarious intent.

[Family Child Care Provider, Michelle Gagliardi](#) opposes this bill because knowing specific firearm information like number or type specifically in reference to the misunderstanding or misuse of said information. She also recommends a balanced approach regarding acknowledging the presence of firearms but not an itemized list of them.

[CSEA SEIU, Family Childcare Provider, Jeanine Lewis](#) Opposes this bill because notifying parents and guardians of firearms poses more of a risk than it mitigates. There are also large amounts of turnover in childcare facilities, which creates unnecessary heightened safety concern. The current state system where the state monitors and inspects firearm storage is the most affective approach.

[Nicole Molgano](#), opposes this bill because this is a personal and private house matter. We should not have to disclosed what or how many firearms we have if we follow the state regulations on keeping firearms in a safe place.

[CSEA-SEIU, Early Education Director, Adrean Enrique Rodriguez](#) opposes this bill because disclosing specific firearm information to parents and guardians; some of which are staying for a short time, can expose childcare providers to harm. Childcare homes have the right to protect themselves but also should provide a safe environment for children.

[CCDL, Legislative Coordinator, Matthew Strasser](#) opposes this bill because the state already has exercises random firearm storage and safety checks. These checks are public record and it would be more effective to direct parents to said record. A criminal may also see an itemized list provided by a daycare and know where and what to look for to steal firearms.

[Growing Minds Academy, Director, Jamie Torns](#) opposes this bill because it infringes on gun owners' rights and adds unnecessary regulation. If firearms are stored safely and this is made apparent to parents, it will allow them to make an informed decision on childcare facilities.

[Learning Nest, Home Daycare Owner, Jessica Zoilko](#) opposes this bill because owning a firearm is a personal matter and would create unnecessary vulnerability for daycare providers with firearms. Disclosure of number and type of firearms can create significant risk in regards to said information being passed along to people with bad intent. It is more important to prioritize proper firearm storage and safety.

[Dom Basile](#) opposes this bill because firearms are dangerous devices and in home daycare providers are already doing their due diligence. By all means parents and guardians should vet staff and facilities about guns and hazardous materials. Unannounced state inspections already take place and mandating an itemized list is an overstep.

[Anonymous](#) opposes this bill because it infringes on privacy rights and would put homes at risk. Everyone that offers childcare is not worthy of trust and should not advertise to the public contents of their private collections.

[Sean Ellis](#) opposes this bill because it is unconstitutional and unethical, putting families at risk and does not combat gun violence.

[CESA SEIU Local 2001, Family Childcare Provider, Queen Freeloze](#) opposes this bill because while its important for the OEC to inspect and verify firearms; but regulations should not stigmatize providers as providing an unsafe environment and making the presence of firearms influence a family childcare home negatively.

[David Gorski](#) opposes this bill as it is a violation of privacy, and the OEC already inspects home daycares for proper safety and storage. An itemized list of firearms is dangerous and could encourage criminal activity as they have knowledge of what firearms are in the home.

[Jason Levy](#) opposes this bill because it is an invasion of privacy, and the current law already has outlines regarding firearm storage and safety. There is no reason for an itemized list to be made public unless the purpose is for criminals to know where to steal firearms.

[Tom Maloney](#) opposes this bill because home daycare facilities are already inspected annually and would not contribute to child safety. It is more important to emphasize the proper storage and safety for firearms in childcare homes.

[Robert Michalak](#) opposes this bill because it is a violation of privacy and would allow private firearm information to fall into the wrong hands. This would allow criminals to break into homes knowing exactly what to look for as they have an itemized firearm list. This would also cause financial harm to home daycare providers as parents and guardians may be uncomfortable with the presence of firearms.

[Robert Pettinella](#) opposes this bill because it infringes on constitutional rights regarding firearm privacy. There are also preexisting safety regulations in place that encourage safety and safe storage of firearms. Instead of mandating an itemized list mandating proper safety and storage would be more effective.

[Arthur Tiede](#) opposes this bill because a portion of Ethan's Law regarding safe firearm storage is adequate. Also, the disclosure of an itemized firearm list will do more harm than good in regard to safety. Said itemized list could act as a shopping list for gun thieves.

[Chris Vereneau](#) opposes this bill because it could potentially violate constitutional and private rights.

[John Ziolk](#) opposes this bill because it provides no additional safety and violates privacy regarding the number and type of firearms stored in a childcare home. The current childcare gun regulations are adequate and the disclosure of number or type of firearms could be dangerous. This information could also harm a business as people have very strong feelings about private gun ownership.

**Reported by: Tucker Carroll**

**Date: 2/20/25**

