

PHILIP B. SCOTT
Governor



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 10, 2019

The Honorable John Bloomer, Jr.
Secretary of the Senate
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5401

Dear Secretary Bloomer:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I am returning S.169, *An act relating firearms procedures* without my signature in the time permitted by the Constitution because of my objections described herein.

Last year, I called for and signed a package of historic gun safety reforms because I believe they make schools, communities, families and individuals safer, while upholding Vermonters' constitutional rights.

Over the last year, among other gun safety measures, we have established:

- Mandatory background check requirements;
- Extreme risk protection orders, giving families tools to remove guns from those who may harm themselves or others;
- The ability of law enforcement to remove firearms from those accused of domestic violence; and
- Requirements increasing the age to buy a firearm from 18 to 21.

With these measures in place, we must now prioritize strategies that address the underlying causes of violence and suicide. I do not believe S.169 addresses these areas.

Moving forward, I ask the Legislature to work with me to strengthen our mental health system, reduce adverse childhood experiences, combat addiction, and provide every Vermonter with hope and economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Philip B. Scott
Governor