June 4, 2024 – Gun Violence Awareness Day in Redding

Whereas 219 people were killed with firearms in Connecticut during 2023, the third highest number of gun deaths in more than a decade: and

Whereas, firearms are the second-leading cause of suicide in Connecticut and account for half of all gun deaths in our state; and

Whereas, firearms are now the leading cause of death of children and teens in the U.S., surpassing motor vehicles accidents; and

Whereas, health experts including the American Public Health Association, the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics have declared gun violence a public health crisis; and

Whereas, exposure to gun violence can change a child’s brain development and lead to short- and long-term consequences, including decreased academic performance, chronic health problems, substance abuse and unstable employment; and

Whereas, pervasive crisis response drills needed to prepare students in the case of a school shooting create emotional harm; and

Whereas, more than 80 percent of child firearm suicides use a gun belonging to a family member and three-quarters of school shooters obtain the gun they used from their home or the home of a relative; and

Whereas, abused women are five times more likely to be killed if the abuser owns a firearm and nearly 1 million women have reported being shot by an abuser; and

Whereas, six out of ten firearms recovered at crime scenes in Connecticut in 2022 came from out of state, all from states with weaker gun regulations than ours; and

Whereas, by joining together we can call attention to this public health crisis and signal our commitment to reducing gun violence in all its forms.


Julia Pemberton
First Selectwoman, Redding, CT