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Vermont Medical Society Disappointed with Veto of 24-hr Waiting Period Bill

MONTPELIER – June 11, 2019 – The Vermont Medical Society and the American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter express disappointment in the veto of S.169. As physicians and physician assistants, we know that no single intervention will solve the problem of gun violence. However, the requirement of a waiting period to purchase firearms helps to address the proven connection between impulsivity, access to firearms, temporary crises and suicide deaths. Given that Vermont has a higher than average rate of suicide deaths and our youth suicide deaths consistently place us in the top quartile in the U.S., S.169 was one step in the direction of saving lives.

We thank the Vermont Legislature for its work this year on this important legislation. We also recognize the Governor's support of important firearm safety legislation enacted last year and support of other important mental health and community service interventions. But, a waiting period continues to be an important intervention to prevent gun violence, especially death by suicide. We hope the Governor will be an active participant in similar life-saving initiatives in the future.

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About the Vermont Medical Society:

The Vermont Medical Society is the leading voice of physicians in the state and is dedicated to advancing the practice of medicine by advocating on behalf of Vermont's doctors, physician assistants and patients. The Society serves its 2,000 members through public policy advocacy, by providing legal, administrative and educational support, through up-to-date health care news and information and by offering member benefits that increase medical practice effectiveness. For more information, visit www.VTMD.org.