

SUPPORT FOR FULLY FUNDING PROJECT LONGEVITY

This coming Monday, February 22nd, the Appropriations Committee will begin hearing testimony on the proposal to fully fund Project Longevity, a violence intervention program presently being conducted in Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven. There is clear evidence that this community-based initiative has been effective in reducing gun violence in densely populated urban areas. Hence, in order to sustain and build these programs it is important for the legislature to fully fund and support these initiatives in every way possible.

Much has been done in Connecticut to ensure that it has some of the strictest gun control laws in the country, including the recent passing of “Ethan’s Law (HB-7218) requiring “secure storing” of all guns in in homes where a minor is in residence. Other examples of Connecticut legislative initiatives to prevent gun violence include a law that bans so-called “ghost guns,” and another that outlaws “bump stock” and other enhanced rapid-fire weapons.

However, the State now needs to invest in specific programs that prevent community gun violence that disproportionately impacts Black and brown communities. According to all evidence Project Longevity does just that, as it has been, according to all evidence, effective in preventing gun violence in high-population, urban areas—communities that throughout the country have suffered most from gun violence.

As a private citizen who is most concerned about the epidemic of gun violence throughout the country, I urge the Appropriations Committee to recommend strongly that Governor’s Lamont’s present budget include full funding for Project Longevity.

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