



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

# TREASURER SHAWN T. WOODEN

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** December 5, 2019

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## **TREASURER WOODEN RESPONDS TO CONSERVATIVE CAUCUS ATTACKS ON RESPONSIBLE GUN POLICY**

Today, Connecticut State Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden responded to criticism from the Connecticut General Assembly's Conservative Caucus on the [Responsible Gun Policy](#):

“The Conservative Caucus has clearly taken their talking points from the NRA, which helps explain their total lack of understanding of the Responsible Gun Policy and the unnecessary systemic risks associated with the civilian firearms industry. Over the past year, I’ve focused on managing investment portfolio risk, even hiring the Treasury’s first Chief Risk Officer solely for this purpose. The divestment component of my policy is about prudently protecting the economic interests of the state’s pension funds and its beneficiaries. Given stock market volatility and significant legal challenges facing the industry, including a recent Supreme Court decision permitting Sandy Hook families to proceed with a lawsuit against a gun manufacturer, my fiduciary duty actually requires that I take these factors into consideration when shaping investment policy. Moreover, gun violence costs our state approximately \$1.2 billion in economic activity and 180 lives each year.

We need real solutions, not rhetoric. Enhancing gun safety is good for investors, good for our state’s economy and good for our communities. Connecticut is one of the most innovative states in the nation and we should strive to be home to the country’s leading smart gun technology industry.

Yes, I know the personal pain of losing someone close to me to gun violence like countless other families across this state and country. But, make no mistake about it, the Responsible Gun Policy is about business and generating returns for the people of Connecticut.”

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