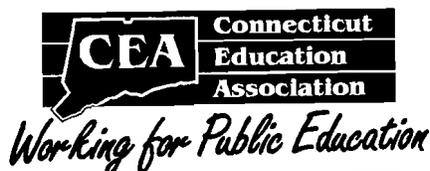


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**Testimony of the Connecticut Education Association  
to the Judiciary Committee  
in support of Raised Bill No. 5818  
An Act Concerning Lost or Stolen Firearms**

We offer this testimony today on behalf of over 36,000 members of the Connecticut Education Association and the children we teach. It is an alarming state of affairs when 23 percent of small-city ninth and 10<sup>th</sup>-graders and 15 percent of affluent, suburban ninth and 10<sup>th</sup>-graders say, "It would be sort of easy, or very easy, to get a gun." (See attached "Kid Data, 2005.")

Headlines are too frequent in Connecticut newspapers of children carrying guns to school, and worse, being victims of gun violence. Where do these children, our students, get firearms? The legislation before you will help to determine who is responsible and hold that person accountable.

From Stamford to New London to New Fairfield to Bridgeport, we have attached to this testimony documented examples of students bringing weapons and guns to schools. As we all work to close the achievement gap, to provide opportunity and hope for a better future for all of Connecticut's children, let us begin by providing our students and their teachers a safe school environment—a gun-free workplace. Our schools need to be places where children go to learn and grow—where parents know their children are safe.

Please show your support, close the loophole, and require stolen guns to be reported. A student's or teacher's life may depend on it. Thank you.