

TESTIMONY FOR HB 5818, *An Act Concerning Lost Or Stolen Firearms*

New York, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio and California all require that a stolen gun must be reported. I believe Connecticut should have this law also. A large number of guns used in crimes have been stolen. This law would remove some sources of guns, so fewer crimes could be committed using them. Between 2001-2003, there were 184 murders, 4,651 robberies, and 1,962 aggravated assaults involving guns. Unfortunately violence involving guns has increased by 10% in 2004 and 20% in 2002.

Gun owners agree that stolen guns should be reported by 96%. Another poll of Connecticut residents reflects 98% support having reporting of stolen guns mandatory. I hope churches and other community groups will take up supporting HB 5818 as a cause.

I advocate on behalf of families and children. Their safety will increase when the availability of guns is significantly lessened. Communities with Connecticut will benefit from this bill being passed and signed.

I publicized ASK Day online and within my church newsletter. ASK Day (Asking Saves Kids) is the first day of summer. That day, parents are to ask their children whether a neighbor or friend has a gun, and if it is loaded. A gun in the house must be locked up, if not. Otherwise the parents are not to send their child to play there. The number of stories about children shooting themselves or others accidentally after finding guns is far too high.

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