

MOTHERS UNITED AGAINST VIOLENCE -MEMBERS TESTIMONY
SUPPORTING BILL (HB 5818)
HENRIETTA BECKMAN AND CARMEN RODRIGUEZ

On behalf of Mothers United Against Violence I Henrietta Beckman and Carmen Rodriguez are here to support the Bill (5818) requiring gun owners the responsibility of reporting their fire arms lost or stolen within 72 hours. We bring with us our personal testimony as to how gun violence has both changed and tragically affected our lives. We both have lost young sons to gun violence, both in which were murdered by someone with illegal possession of fire arms. To this day one of the perpetrators is a known criminal and has not yet been allocated with the murder. Yet and still this criminal had access to a firearm.

I Henrietta Beckman lost my 20 year old son Randy Beckman to gun violence. He was shot point blank range (on Feb. 16,2002), in the head while sitting in his motor vehicle. The murderer had every intention of insuring that my son would not survive by his weapon choice, using a hand gun. At the time of death Feb.20,2002 my son left behind his 4 month old son and his grieving mother, father and host of other family members that can only share his memory with his son. My grandson has to grow up knowing that his father was killed by a gun, and that there are people that could have possibly prevented that gun from easily being acquired on the streets of Hartford. I can truly say that it is not to late to save another child's life with this bill. Let my loss serve as a stepping stone to do the right thing and save another persons life. Our organization MUAV has acquired most of it's members based on families that have lost loved one's to gun violence. It is a devastating reality to know that our common union is due to the violence here in Hartford and the State of CT. as a whole.

Carmen Rodriguez's son Carlos Garcia had a similar fate to my son. In speaking on Carmen's behalf it pains us all to know that her son was also shot and killed on Dec. 5,2002. Carlos lost his young life at the tender age of 16. He had a 3 week old son that he never got the pleasure of meeting. He was to be with his new born son on Dec. 6,2002. Due to his son being born in another State he never got the pleasure of being held by his father. Carmen's son died in her sight while fleeing from the sound of gun shots being fired. It saddens me to say that he was indeed struck by one of those bullets in his chest and he died in his sisters arms right in front of his mother's eyes. Carmen lives in constant fear because she has two more teenage sons ages 15 and 17 and she feels that if something doesn't change soon relating to the gun trafficking her other boys may bear the same fate. She fear that her boys are never safe with the gun violence issues presented here in ths city and State. We would love to see a decrease in violence especially on the grounds of gun violence were we have lost so many of our loved ones due to it.

For these reasons we are in support of this bill and we hope you as legislators see it fit to pass such a bill in the honor of stopping illegal gun trafficking in an attempt to find out where these guns are actually coming from. And also to serve as a positive stepping stone in us losing our loved ones to ensure that they have not died in vain. Please lend us you support in helping us make positive changes here in Connecticut.