



State of Connecticut

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Support Testimony for H.B. 6901

April 10, 2007

Chairman McDonald, Chairman Lawlor, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

Rep. Ayala and I decided to sit together before you today to help emphasize the fact that gun crime can happen anywhere. It is not simply an urban issue, it can and does affect us all. We support H.B. 6901.

Last year:

- Over half of CT communities were affected by gun violence (Statistic provided by Citizens Against Gun Violence, CAGV).
- Connecticut Against Gun Violence reviewed 680 newspaper stories of gun crimes committed 2006. The results were startling. When the guns' origins were identified, 91 percent were found to be illegally possessed by the suspect.

My own town of Fairfield has felt the impact, when two long time residents and jewelry store owners were shot and killed. The weapon in that case was later determined to have been "lost" by its rightful owner. It doesn't stop there. Recently, two armed robberies have taken place at banks in my town: Fairfield County Bank (3/11/07) and People's Bank (3/7/07).

Another recent crime, the Flannery murder, took place in Bridgeport (The city nearest to my town). In this instance, the suspect gunned down a mother and her 9-year-old daughter, and then fled the scene to the suburbs. The shooter was eventually apprehended in Trumbull, CT (but it could have been Fairfield, Easton, Weston, Westport, or Stratford).

It really could have been anyone of our towns.

It is so important for us all to be cognizant of the fact that a wall does not exist between our cities and their surrounding towns. We are interconnected and interdependent communities.

Please support H.B. 6901 and help give our law enforcement officials the tools they need to reduce violent crime and prosecute individuals who traffic in lost and stolen fire arms.

Thank you for your consideration on this important bill.