

BILL HB 6901, SB 903, SB 904 in support of reporting lost and stolen firearms.

Angie Sutton, Glastonbury

Good afternoon, my name is Angie Sutton. I am a member and the co-chair of Mothers United Against Violence. Our organization was formed based on the tragic loss of loved ones to violence here in this city and State. We are united by a bond of tragedy. All of us have lost loved ones to violence, and most often, at the hands of a gun. We are an organization of circumstance and one that you ordinarily don't volunteer to join, but as an organization we do ask that citizens get involved to help stop the epidemic of violence that we are plagued with today.

For me, I had to bear the burden of losing my step-father first hand to gun violence on Feb. 02, 2002. My dad was an entrepreneur who serviced the Hartford community for over 30 years at J&J Market on Enfield St in HTFD. My dad was tragically shot and killed in his place of employment. My dad had the honor of serving his country in World War two where he earned the purple heart and many other awards of valor protecting his country and all my family has as a memory is a single bullet that took his life and his legacy away from us in an instant. My family lives everyday with this loss. We do not have the privilege of knowing who the killer is and we may never know. But we do know this - odds are, that he was someone who should not have had a gun to begin with. The question is where did he get the gun?

I am here to support the bills requiring the reporting of lost or stolen fire arms. I feel that with this bill in place there will be more reported cases of lost or stolen fire arms in a timely fashion which will definitely slow down gun trafficking in this city. This will contribute to less families receiving calls from the coroners to come and identify their loved ones bodies because of a senseless shooting involving a gun that was more than likely not reported stolen and illegally sold on the streets. I believe that most of the senseless crime that takes place right here in our state Capitol is due to heightened gun trafficking because of unreported lost or stolen fire arms.

Many of the members in my organization can confirm that we need a means to an end to the increasing homicides due to gun violence in our communities. Guns are everywhere in Hartford. We are asking you to help us get an answer to where these guns are coming from, and to take steps to stop the flow into our neighborhoods. We believe that this will be the first step forward to saving our youth and reclaiming our communities. We all know and understand that change takes time and patience but unfortunately time has run out for many of our family members that had to die tragically. We believe that this bill is a beginning power move in saving lives and helping to bring this growing gun epidemic to an end. We bear the burden of proof that guns have destroyed lives and ripped families apart. We bare the burden of having to lose loved ones because of gun violence. We bare the burden of raising fatherless and motherless children. We bare the burden of having to prepare funerals for our children instead of our children preparing them for us. We bare the burden that our dearest loved ones faces are at the end of these bullets. Please hear my cry and put the burden on those that can make a difference in stopping this gun epidemic. Give the gun owners the responsibility of ending our burdens by reporting the loss and stolen nature of these fire arms or WE the people will continue to lose loved ones and eventually be murdered ourselves by the undocumented loss and stolen fire arms. Give the burden to the people with the fire arms purchase receipts!!!!

Requiring the reporting of lost or stolen firearms is one small step towards addressing this trafficking problem. We can't allow traffickers to use the excuse that the gun was stolen as a way to sell guns in our neighborhoods.

We urge legislators to support us and our community by supporting this legislation.
Thank you.