

Testimony in support of SB 607 - An Act Concerning The Identification Of Certain Firearms And The Criminal Possession Of Firearms.

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Good afternoon. I want to thank the Committee for allowing me to speak tonight. My name is Brian Giesing, and I am speaking in support of SB 607 - An Act Concerning The Identification Of Certain Firearms And The Criminal Possession Of Firearms.

When I knew that I would be addressing this audience on this bill, Senate I wanted to relay an experience that would touch anyone who had doubts that this bill should be passed.

On Memorial Day weekend 2006 I received a phone call from one of my children that changed my life forever.

My son and stepson were shot and please hurry to the hospital as soon as I can get there because it looked bad. That was the message I received.

I can tell you that there are not enough nightmares in the world that can ever describe my feelings that day as when I found out that both of these young men were dead, and had been needlessly killed by another young man.

My life from that moment on is still one recurrent nightmare after another. It never ends. And it was compounded last November, when my wife, Linda, died of a sudden heart attack, caused in part by the stress we faced as we attended every single court appearance demanded when a shooter is charged with two counts of murder, felony murder, first-degree robbery, two counts of criminal use of a firearm, and possession of a sawed-off shotgun. Linda was 51 years old.

But in one way we are luckier than others who have to deal with the murder of a loved one by a gun, because in our case an arrest was made and the shooter is being prosecuted. For too many others, that is not the case. Today, too many victims gun crimes are unable to obtain justice because there not enough evidence in their cases to identify and convict the shooters.

Microstamping handguns will help change this. Police will be able to link used cartridge cases recovered at crime scenes to the exact gun that the casing came from. This will provide leads at many crime scenes; leads that will help police begin an investigation in the first crucial hours after a homicide.

I cannot convey to you how critical that is to families who yearn for justice on behalf of those they have loved and lost.

I would also like to speak in support of making the criminal possession requirements for rifles and shotguns the same for those of handguns. My son and stepson were murdered by a shotgun. I was told that someone sold him the gun because the person that sold it to him was strapped for cash. I am not certain whether or not the shooter was prohibited from owning a gun. We do know he had a criminal history, but we have

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not yet learned exactly what he was convicted of. In any case, it just makes no sense to me that a person could be prohibited from having a handgun, but be allowed to have a rifle or shotgun. People are murdered by those guns too.

Honestly, I cannot fathom any group or any person who would not be in favor of this bill. This bill makes gun owners accountable for their guns. They will not want to let them fall into the hands of the wrong person, because the casings will easily be traced back to them.

Even the NRA, who, although I'm not a member, I still respect because they advocate gun safety and accountability should applaud this bill because it expounds on accountability.

What this bill does not do is deny anyone the right to bear arms. It does say that as a gun owner I am aware of the power of this device and will do everything in my power to assure that I will make sure I know where it is at all times.

In conclusion, I realize that this law will not end gun crime. But this will be another tool in the toolbox and a step in the right directions towards taking seriously our belief that we will do what is right to ensure that our children in this great state and all the cities and town in Connecticut are protected.

Thank you very much.