



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**SENATOR MARTIN M. LOONEY**  
ELEVENTH DISTRICT

MAJORITY LEADER

132 FORT HALE ROAD  
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06512  
TELEPHONES  
HOME: (203) 468-8829  
OFFICE: (203) 488-6101  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8600  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1420

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Good Morning Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and members of the Judiciary Committee. I am here to express my support for SB 607, AN ACT CONCERNING THE IDENTIFICATION OF CERTAIN FIREARMS AND THE CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS. I have long been an advocate of laws that protect citizens from irresponsible gun owners without impinging on the rights of law abiding citizens. SB 607 would make two important improvements to our public safety statutes. First, it would make the penalties for the criminal possession of long guns, and in fact any firearm, the same as that for criminal possession of handguns. Under current law, a person is in criminal possession of a handgun if, among other things, the person possessing a handgun has been convicted of certain felonies, has been involuntarily confined to a psychiatric facility within the last 12 months, or is subject to certain restraining orders. Possession of long guns and other firearms should be regulated by the same

standard. The bill accomplishes this goal by changing the words "pistol or revolver" to "firearm". This is a sensible change as any firearm can be used in criminal activities. Connecticut will be safer if convicted felons and persons with mental illness are prohibited from possessing any firearm. There is no reason that long guns and other firearms can be possessed legally by dangerous persons.

SB 607 would also require the microstamping of ammunition. Microstamping uses lasers to make engravings on the firing pin or inside the firing chamber which are transferred to the casings when the gun is fired. This process allows police to link the evidence to the specific gun that fired the bullet. Microstamping technology will help law enforcement identify and apprehend perpetrators of gun crime because, at times, the only evidence at a crime scene is a spent cartridge case. Microstamping will allow police to link used cartridge cases recovered at a crime scene to a specific firearm and to the criminal who fired it.

In addition, microstamping will help reduce gun trafficking of new semi-automatic handguns because legal purchasers who buy guns in Connecticut for traffickers (known as straw buyers) will be deterred by the knowledge that crimes committed with the guns can be traced directly back to them.

I look forward to working with you on this important legislation.