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**VIA EMAIL**

Judiciary Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly  
State Capitol  
Hartford, CT 06106

**RE: PROPOSED SENATE BILL NO. 650 and  
HOUSE BILL NOS. 6848 and 6962**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I write in support of all the captioned bills. I'm an enthusiastic, 82+year old, lifelong shooter, who holds a CT pistol permit (and also a Massachusetts non-resident firearms license), and is an NRA member and a director of Connecticut Against Gun Violence ("CAGV"). I am committed to the cause of reducing gun violence and firmly believe these bills will contribute to that cause. I urge you to pass these measures, about which I have the following comments:

**HB 6962 - Safe Storage of Firearms.** This measure would expand the present law, which requires, with certain exceptions, safe storage of firearms in "any premises under ...[a] person's control if such person knows or reasonably should know that a minor [i.e., a person under the age of 16] is likely to gain access to the firearm without the permission of the parent or guardian of the minor." The bill would apply the requirement to "any premises under a person's control where such person knows or reasonably should know that **another person** is likely to gain access to the firearm."

This is only common sense. Moreover, it is also consistent with the published views of the NRA and various pro-gun observers. The online version of NRA Gun Safety Rules ( <http://training.nra.-gun-safety-rules.aspx> (2012)), states (on page 2 of 2):

**Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized person.**

Many factors must be considered when deciding where and how to store a gun. A person's particular situation will be a major part of the consideration. Dozens of gun storage devices, as well as locking devices that attach to the gun are available.

However, mechanical locking devices, like mechanical safeties built into guns, can fail and should not be used as a substitute for safe gun handling and the observance of all gun safety rules."

<http://training.nra-gun-safety-rules.aspx> (2012)) (page 2 of 2)):

See also:

#### **Safe Gun Storage at Home:**

"Storing guns safely inside your apartment is extremely important. Guns must always be stored in a way that limits unauthorized access. Guns that are left unsecured can be prime targets for theft or unauthorized "borrowing," and they can be hazardous if handled by someone who is not trained on gun safety concepts. You as the gun's owner have a responsibility to keep them out of the wrong hands. It is possible you could be held liable for bad things that happen as a result of neglecting to secure your gun. For this reason and to protect yourself from theft, it is a good idea to keep guns securely stored in your home. There are many different techniques for effectively storing guns and keeping them out of the wrong hands. A few solutions are free-standing safes, mini gun safes and built-in gun room/closet." Patrick Sleem (([ezine://articles.com/Safe-Gun-Storage-at-Home&id=7405040](http://ezine://articles.com/Safe-Gun-Storage-at-Home&id=7405040) (2012) (page 1 of 3)

#### **G[uns]&A[mmo] Basics: How to Store Your Gun**

" Modern firearms are powerful tools that experienced shooters understand need to be treated with respect. While a gun is in use, we carefully follow common sense rules to keep everyone safe. But how do we practice firearm safety when the shooting or hunting seasons are over? Most of the guns folks own will spend the majority of their working life at rest, placed in one state of storage or another, until the next shooting event. Since they remain powerful tools between trips to the range, it's very important to secure them properly. "

B. Gil Horman (Guns&Ammo <http://www.gunsandammo.com/home/ga-basics-how-to-store-your-gun/> October 16th 2012 (page 1 of 3))

#### **How to store guns safely in your home**

If you decide that keeping a gun at home is imperative to you and your family's safety, you must insure that it is properly and securely stored."

Fox News (<http://www.foxnews.com/leisure/2012/04/26/how-to-store-guns-safely-in-your-home/> (page 1 of 5))

The existing law's attempt to protect young people from gun violence is laudable. However, after the 2012 massacre in Newtown, it should be abundantly clear that the existing law is inadequate and needs to be expanded. (On a personal note, in the required class for my CT pistol permit, my NRA-qualified instructor discussed various CT laws relating to firearms but said nothing about the law relating to safe storage. I don't know whether this omission is common, but including a generally-applicable statutory requirement for safe storage of firearms should increase the likelihood that instructors and pro-shooting organizations will bring it to the

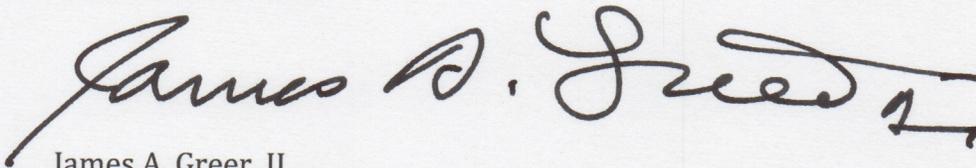
attention of their students.) I believe HB 6962 is eminently sound. In addition to increasing public awareness of the importance of safe firearm storage, it recognizes there are many ways of achieving it and does not place an undue burden on gun owners. Accordingly, I believe it deserves your strong support and urge you to pass it.

**SB 650 and HB 6848 – Domestic Violence – Temporary Restraining**

**Orders.** These measures seek to strengthen the law relating to temporary restraining orders in cases of domestic violence. Most notably, at present the law allows the owner of firearms who is the subject of an *ex parte* temporary restraining order to continue to possess them during the 14-day period between the issuance of the order and the judicial hearing to consider whether to extend the temporary order. This hiatus creates a substantial risk of grave bodily harm or death to the person who is supposed to be protected by the order. Taken together, these bills effectively eliminate that hiatus in domestic violence cases. (Not infrequently, police now take possession of firearms before they have a court order. This is often thoroughly sensible and prudent. However, there are those who argue vehemently that, without such a change in the law, it is unconstitutional and illegal to take any firearms owned by the subject of an *ex parte*, temporary restraining order during the 14-day period before the judicial hearing on extending that order.)

Domestic violence involving firearms is a serious, ongoing problem in Connecticut. See January 6, 2015 op-ed statement of Connecticut Coalition Against Gun Violence in the *Hartford Courant* headed "Temporary Restraining Order Should Mean No Guns." Reportedly, there are 5-6 gun-related homicides every year in situations involving domestic violence. Passage of these bills should help reduce that number. Accordingly, they deserve your strong support and urge you to pass them.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James A. Greer, II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

James A. Greer, II  
CDR-USNR (RET.)

P/S I'm a third-generation Republican.