Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, ranking members Kissel and Rebimbas and distinguished members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary:

My name is Janet McMahon and I am a resident from Cos Cob. I am a RTM member in Greenwich as well as a CAGV (Connecticut Against Gun Violence) volunteer, but most importantly I am a mother of two children.


Every day, eight children are unintentionally shot or killed by a gun. That is eight children too many in my opinion and I dare say that even one death is one too many. We desperately need common sense gun laws in CT because gun laws work and gun deaths are preventable. HB 7218 is one such common sense gun law. In January 2018, Ethan Song, a 15-year old from Guilford, was killed when he got access to an unsecured handgun at a friend’s house. While the gun Ethan found was unloaded, it was stored in the same closet as the ammunition and the gun’s trigger lock key. These guns are no: included under under Sec.29-37i as it only applies to loaded firearms in the home. As such, his death sadly won’t be the last without expanding the conditions under which firearms must be securely stored to include unloaded firearms.

Additionally, I support H.B. 7223 because I believe that all guns, loaded and unloaded, must be secured wherever they are located - in the home as above - and in cars. On average, a gun is stolen in the U.S. every two minutes. Evidence further suggests that most gun thefts are from owners who leave them unsecured in unlocked homes or cars. Requiring handguns to be secured in unattended vehicles will choke off a key source of crime guns. In CT, this could mean a lot of preventable crime and death as more than 2,600 firearms were stolen between 2012 and 2015.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This is especially true in the case of gun laws. I strongly support H.B. 7218 and H.B. 7223 and urge you to favorably vote these bills out of the Judiciary Committee.

Sincerely,
Janet Lee McMahon
Cos Cob, CT