

10 May 2019

Re: Testimony in support of HB-7218, HB-7223, HB-7219 and SB-60

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

My name is Melinda Alcosser. I am from Guilford, CT and am a full-time educator and parent of two teenage daughters.

I am testifying in **support** of H.B. 7218, *An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home*, H.B. 7223 *An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in Vehicles*, H.B. 7219, *An Act Concerning Ghost Guns* and S.B. 60 *An Act Concerning the Presentation of a Carry Permit*.

As Guilford resident, with children involved in the Guilford school system, I am aware of the tragedy that struck the Song family, as well as the Guilford's youth and community, due to the unsafe storage of weapons in a home that was known to have minors present.

My own daughter spent time the home where Ethan was shot, although I was never made aware of the presence of guns. I and other parents of minors could have suffered a similar fate as Ethan's parents did, since our children too were in this home with unsafely stored weapons, having potential access to the very same unsecured weapons, along with the unguarded keys and ammunition, that were involved in Ethan's death.

It is time to ensure the safety of our youth and the community by establishing laws to properly regulate how guns are handled in a home, a car, and in general, always secured safely.

Safe gun use is something that goes beyond the gun owner's own personal safety – I believe anyone who has permission to own and operate a weapon **MUST** be required to do so in a way that is meant to ensure the safety of others.

Good laws are made and exist to protect citizens from harm. I strongly support H.B. 7218, H.B. 7219 and S.B. 60 and urge you to favorably vote these bills out of the Judiciary Committee.

Sincerely,

Melinda Alcosser
Guilford, CT