

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

My name is Nancy Axthelm, I am from Westport. I am a mother, a grandmother, a church trustee, a DTC District Leader and a concerned citizen.

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.

I am a gun violence prevention advocate because the availability of guns and the threat to children (of all ages) has become an epidemic. My grandchildren are both 4 years old and the chances of them being effected by guns, either in school or in daily life has become a real threat. I hope never to have to suffer as the parents and grandparents of so many children have suffered. Sandy Hook should have been the lightning rod to change, but sadly we are still discussing sensible gun reform. I wish to be a strong voice of children's safety and change.

I endorse H.B. 7218, An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home and H.B. 7223, An Act Concerning the Storage of a Pistol or Revolver in a Motor Vehicle because these are common sense changes that will protect all people. I am one of those people and I cannot believe that responsible gun owners would object. In fact, most don't.

I endorse H.B. 7219, An Act Concerning Ghost Guns to ban guns without serial numbers and to regulate so-called "ghost guns" and 3D plastic printed guns the same as Connecticut regulates other firearms because these guns are a reflection of evolving sensible laws to reflect developing technology. This could not have been thought of before, but now needs to be brought into the light. This is the future of sensible gun reform.

I also endorse S.B. 60, An Act Concerning The Presentation Of A Carry Permit. This will require individuals openly carrying a firearm in public to show their permit, that they are required to have on their person, upon the request of a law enforcement officer. This is only common sense in a world where most people do not carry guns and are therefore threatened by their mere presence. When a simple disclosure of a permit would ensure that the person with the gun was licensed, then it seems an excellent deterrent to people who are NOT legally carrying a gun.

I am passionate about these improvements to our legal system because it reflects the changing and more volatile world we live in by allowing for safe sensible and enforceable laws to protect us and our children. 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,

Nancy Axthelm

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