

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB-7218, HB-7223, HB-7219 and SB-60

Dear Co-Chairs Sen. Winfield and Rep. Stafstrom, Co-Vice Chairs Sen. Bergstein and Rep. Blumenthal, Ranking Members Sen. Kissel and Rep. Rebimbas, and Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Paula Bacolini, a resident of Glastonbury, CT for more than 30 years. I am a retired CT teacher. I know how scared children are when they have to be in a lockdown situation in school during a practice drill and when we had lockdowns because there was a criminal loose in the town. We had to quickly cover the windows on our classroom doors with cardboard, lower the blinds/shades, turn off the lights, grab children from the hallways, lock our doors, hide the children under tables or desks and keep them quiet. I also know first hand, as I was in a lock down situation several years ago, while at the Hospital for Special Care exercising in the pool in their Aquatic Center. A shooter was in the building and had killed one person and injured others. During the lockdown, we were frightened because there was a glass window in the lobby looking into the pool. Even though the lights were off it was still a frightening situation because for hours we didn't know what was happening.

I am writing in **support of the following bills** before the Judiciary Committee:

**SUPPORT H.B. 7218** An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home

**SUPPORT H.B. 7223** An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in Motor Vehicles

**SUPPORT H.B. 7219** An Act Concerning Ghost Guns

**SUPPORT S.B. 60** An Act Concerning the Presentation of a Carry Permit

I support **HB 7218 and HB 7223, safe storage of all firearms at home and in motor vehicles, whether loaded or unloaded.** When there are young children in the home our safe storage laws address this. However, older children and teenagers, under 18 years of age, are just as likely to be injured by a firearm in their home as younger children. In addition, firearms should be safely stored in motor vehicles as well.

In the United States 8 children are shot accidentally by unlocked guns in their homes. When guns and ammunition are locked there is an 85% lower risk. HB 7218 and HB 7223 will clearly send a message to those who are irresponsible citizens, and also prevent suicides. It is shocking to know that the statistics in CT find that gun violence is the 2nd leading cause of death of children and teens. These bills just make good sense and protect our beautiful children and the future generation of our country.

I support **H.B. 7219 A ban on ghost gun weapons.** They are dangerous not only to the public, but also to law enforcement. These untraceable parts have no serial numbers, and therefore, no background checks and no regulations. They may be purchased over

the internet or downloaded to allow 3-D printing. The person who uses such technology does so to turn their firearms into assault weapons or undetectable weapons. For what? There is no hunter that needs an automatic weapon to hunt. These people want to turn their firearms into automatic weapons to kill as many people as possible in a short period of time. We need to ban ghost guns in CT this session. I wrote testimony to ban them last year and it did not get taken up, although I thank this committee for voting the bill out of committee last session. It is terrifying to think of ghost guns turning a regular gun into a semi-automatic weapon. This is no match for our police force or our first responders or those who check us through the screening process to get into the Capitol and the LOB, as well as airports and other public events. Ghost Guns must be banned.

I support **SB 60, to present a carry permit to police officers**, because individuals who openly carrying firearms are doing so to intimidate the public, and our law enforcement men and women must have the right to require those that openly carry firearms to produce their permits. This legislation is supported by CT law enforcement. They are our first responders, and I support their ability to do their jobs that keep us all safer.

Guns don't make us safer. We pay as families who loose loved ones to gun violence, suicide or accidental deaths. We pay as taxpayers \$229 billion dollars annually in the cost of gun violence. Gun deaths are 7 times higher in states with the highest level of gun ownership compared to CT, which is a state with one of the lowest rates of gun ownership. We are fortunate in CT that we have this low rate of gun ownership, and it is because we already have strong gun safety legislation. People who feel safe don't need to purchase guns. People who hunt believe in being responsible gun owners. These laws are for those people who are irresponsible or who would do us harm. There are people who say we won't be successful with laws, because those who want to break the laws will do so anyway. I say every deterrent is necessary to keep our state one of the lowest in gun violence in the country.

Since the Federal Government won't keep our citizens and children safe, I am counting on the members of this committee and our legislators to keep us safe in CT. **These are common sense gun regulations.** I urge the members of the Judiciary Committee to do the right thing to keep CT citizens safe, to keep our children safe, and **vote Yes to pass HB-7218, HB-7223, HB-7219 and SB-60 out of the GAE Committee, with unanimous bipartisan support.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Paula Bacolini  
Glastonbury, CT 06033