

TESTIMONY OF RAY BEVIS
LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR, CONNECTICUT CITIZENS DEFENSE LEAGUE
JUDICARY COMMITTEE
March 11, 2019

Support: S.B. 940 AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN PERSONS TO CARRY HANDGUNS IN STATE PARKS AND STATE FORESTS.

Support: H.B. 5227 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF FIREARMS BY MUNICIPALITIES.

Support: H.B. 5870 AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSFER OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES.

Oppose: S.B. 60 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESENTATION OF A CARRY PERMIT.

Oppose: H.B. 7219 AN ACT CONCERNING GHOST GUNS.

Oppose: H.B. 7223 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STORAGE OF A PISTOL OR REVOLVER IN A MOTOR VEHICLE.

Please amend: H.B. 7218 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS IN THE HOME.

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. My name is Ray Bevis, I'm the Legislative Coordinator for Connecticut Citizens Defense League (CCDL). We are a grassroots organization devoted to advocating rights affirmed by the Constitutions of the United States of America and the State of Connecticut. We are especially dedicated to protecting the unalienable right of citizens to keep and bear arms, for the defense of both self and state, through public enlightenment and legislative action.

Regarding S.B. 940 AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN PERSONS TO CARRY HANDGUNS IN STATE PARKS AND STATE FORESTS I'm in full support, being isolated in parks and forest does pose a safety risk. Often, cell phone service is limited or unavailable. Law-abiding citizens should not be deprived of their right of personal self-protection. Through the

years, I've had numerous Connecticut residents contact me looking for information on how to acquire a carry permit for the main purpose to carry while hiking on Connecticut trails. They are very surprised to learn that carrying a sidearm is not allowed.

Regarding H.B. 5227 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF FIREARMS BY MUNICIPALITIES, I'm in full support. Currently, law-abiding gun owners have hundreds of federal and state firearm laws and regulations they must follow. It is unrealistic for law-abiding citizens to know which municipalities only allow open carry, ban the carrying or possession of firearms on public streets, outdoors during civil emergencies. Many towns have age restriction on discharging firearms, even with parental supervision.

Regarding H.B. 5870 AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSFER OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES. I'm in full support.

Regarding S.B. 60 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESENTATION OF A CARRY PERMIT I'm in full opposition. This is a profiling bill, targeting permit holders. Line 6 and Line 7 of the committee bill makes this very clear: "Such holder shall present his or her permit upon the request of a law enforcement officer". **The bill isn't saying any person with a gun has to present identification, it says the vetted law-abiding person has to present their permit.** I'm very concerned that the police interaction will not be the same for the Caucasian permit holder and the Black or Latino permit holder.

Regarding H.B. 7219 AN ACT CONCERNING GHOST GUNS, I oppose this bill. This bill is unconstitutional. There are hundreds of thousand of firearms without serial number that have been around for a century. This has never been a public safety concern before.

Regarding H.B. 7223 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STORAGE OF A PISTOL OR REVOLVER IN A MOTOR VEHICLE, I'm opposed to this bill. This bill will do nothing for public safety and fact will create numerous unintended consequences. Victims of car robberies will now be reluctant to report their firearms stolen, fearful that they will be charge for having their firearm stolen from their car. This will unnecessarily create public concern. When someone sees a person handling their firearm in a parking lot while they are putting or

removing their sidearm from the "locked safe" located in their trunk of their vehicle. Let's address the real problem, the repeat criminal breaking into cars.

Regarding H.B. 7218 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS IN THE HOME. Today, we are here because of the horrific tragedy of Ethan Song. Thirty years ago, when the General Assembly pass P.A. 90-144 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNERS OF FIREARMS WITH RESPECT TO CHILDREN it was in response to the horrific tragedy of twelve-year-old, D.J. Kenney. I ask the Committee fully implement the P.A. passed almost thirty years ago. Please amend this bill to require the state board of education to develop or adopt a firearm safety curriculum for K-eighth grade students. We teach kids that stoves are hot and don't touch them, we teach kids about fire safety and "Stop, Drop, and Roll". **We need to teach kids that if they see a firearm "Don't Touch, Leave, Tell an Adult" not pretend that firearms don't exist.** Let's focus on prevention and encourage safe storage. Amend this bill to include a one-time tax credit up to One-hundred fifty dollars for the purchase of a firearm safe. Let's make this about preventing another tragedy.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Ray Bevis

CCDL Legislative Coordinator

legislative@ccd.us

(860) 800-CCDL