

March 8, 2019

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

My name is Catherine Champigny and I am from West Hartford. I am a mother of two girls and a strong supporter of gun sense legislation. I come from a family which has experienced gun violence first hand. My father is a survivor of the workplace shooting that occurred at Hartford Distributors on August 3, 2010. On that day he witnessed his best friend's murder and deaths of seven other friends. This event has impacted my dad and shaped our family in numerous ways.

In light of my personal experiences, I am testifying in SUPPORT of bills HB-7218 *An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home*, HB-7223 *An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in Vehicles*, and HB-7219 *An Act Concerning Ghost Guns*.

I have a four-year-old daughter and a six-year-old daughter. They are at the age where they are starting to have playdates at friends' houses. I am comfortable asking other parents if guns are in the home and if they are secured. However, implementing safe storage bills such as HB-7218 and HB-7223 will help me and fellow parents rest even easier knowing that measures have been put in place by our officials so that hopefully no other family in CT will have to go through what Ethan Song's family has, and continues to endure. A gun can be a dangerous weapon if it finds itself in the wrong hands. No minor should be able to access a firearm. For this reason, I feel strongly that guns should always be safely stored, whether loaded or unloaded, or at home or in a vehicle.

I also support HB-7219. With gun plans readily available on the internet and the cost of 3D printers declining, the ability to create ghost guns continues to become easier and easier each year. I feel ghost guns should be regulated with the same thoroughness as any other gun purchase is subject to.

For the reasons outlined above I strongly support HB-7218, HB-7223 and HB-7219 and urge you to favorably vote these bills out of the Judiciary Committee

Sincerely,

Catherine Champigny
West Hartford, CT

