

March 4, 2019

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee

My Name is Christine and I am a resident of East Lyme. I write to you today to express my strong **support** for responsible gun safety legislation, in particular, **HB-7218 An Act Concerning The Safe Storage Of Firearms In The Home**, and **HB-7219 An Act Concerning Ghost Guns**.

I am not a gun owner. I do not like guns. My earliest memories of a gun are as a kindergarten student, learning that my classmate had been accidentally shot and killed by a family member (also a child) while playing with a gun they found unsecured in his home. That was nearly 40 years ago. I think back on my life and all I have done, and it makes me so sad to think that his life was so needlessly cut short. As a parent now myself, to a 14 and 12-year-old, it pains me to imagine the lifetime of emotional and physical anguish his parents must feel. On average, every day in the United States 47 children and teens are shot, 8 die, and 4 out of those 8 die from either a suicide or unintentional shooting, like my classmate and like Ethan Song, for whom the bill HB-7218 is named. There is no decent argument to be made against safe storage of a lethal firearm and ammunition. Owning a firearm is a right but it comes with a great responsibility. This should not be viewed as a partisan issue. Safety is not partisan. Children are not partisan. Guns don't see left or right or democrat or republican. We adults are all failing our children by not setting a high legal standard and holding violators to account for failure to safely store guns and ammunition. In my opinion, failing to pass HB-7218 for safe storage of a firearm is equivalent to legalizing reckless endangerment and abuse of a child.

I also support HB 7219 An Act Concerning Ghost Guns. A homemade untraceable gun made from parts without serial numbers purchased (or in the case of 3D guns, printed) from unlicensed dealers without requiring a background check is reckless. Could we make it any easier for criminals and any harder for police? You couldn't just take a bunch of old Ford parts and make a car and think that it would be street legal. It would not pass inspection and would be denied insurance and registration. If you took it out on the street you would be pulled over and held accountable. Protecting Ghost Guns is dangerous, selfish, and a gift to would be criminals.

Thank you for your time. I hope you will support HB 7218 and HB 7219.

Sincerely,
Christine
(full name and address omitted for privacy)