

SENATOR CHRISTINE COHEN

*Twelfth District*

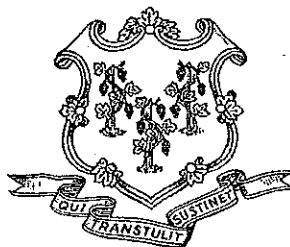
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Dear Chairman Gary Winfield, Chairman Steven Stafstrom, Ranking Member John Kissel, Ranking Member Rosa Rebimbas and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I write in support of four proposals before you today:

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

**H.B. 7218 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS IN THE HOME**

**H.B. 7219 AN ACT CONCERNING GHOST GUNS**

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

However, I will focus my testimony on H.B. 7218 as I am part of a community that has been tremendously impacted by the lack of the law in this regard.

On January 31, 2018, the Town of Guilford and surrounding municipalities were shaken to their core. It was that afternoon when a life was taken too soon due to an unsecured gun. We all stood helplessly as we watched a dear family cope with the loss of their son. A death could have been prevented if the gun, its keys and ammunition were not in an easily accessible container.

Sadly, this narrative is not unusual. The people involved may be different and perhaps the details change a bit, but children are dying each day due to access to an unsecured firearm. Countless times I've turned on the television, opened up the newspaper or listened to the radio all to be informed of another life lost due to a gun falling in the hands of an unintended user. We all have. It is within our power to fix this and lower the incidence of needless heartache.

H.B. 7218 will protect families by requiring guns to be properly stored, regardless of whether or not they are loaded, in a secure location. Current law states that only a loaded gun need be stored in this manner and only if a child under the age of 16 resides in the home. Yet, in the very case that I speak of, while the gun wasn't loaded, its trigger keys and ammunition were stored with it.

Please work towards making this simple change to current statute and keeping families safer. No one should have to get a call or a knock on the door that their child was shot due to an unsecured firearm.

