

Patricia Sivo Cole, Ph.D.

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

My name is Patti Cole, I am from Glastonbury. I am a child psychologist with almost 30 years experience working with youth and their families.

I am testifying in support of H.B. 7218, *An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home*, H.B. 7223 *An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in Vehicles*, H.B. 7219, *An Act Concerning Ghost Guns* and S.B. 60 *An Act Concerning the Presentation of a Carry Permit*.

I first began actively following this issue in 1993 following the tragic death of a teen in Glastonbury at the hands of his friend when the boys found a loaded gun improperly stored. Since then, we have lost more children in their own home and deaths by gunshot in Hartford have been linked to guns stolen from houses in the suburbs. As a psychologist, I have seen the secondary damage caused to family, friends, and schoolmates after a death or injury from a gun. Requiring the commonsense safe storage of a gun and necessarily increasing awareness of such precautions seems very little to ask of those taking on the awesome responsibility of owning a gun.

Updating current state laws to remain current with the ever-changing world of technology is a basic responsibility of the legislature. Otherwise, the government is abdicating any role it has in protecting its citizens from gun violence. Similarly, if someone wants the privilege of carrying a gun in public, it is reasonable that they should have to show a police officer they have a legal permit. Any legal gun owner already has the license and it is not an imposition to have to show it any more than it is for me to show my license to purchase alcohol even when I am decades away from trying to do so illegally.

Please don't let a lobby of those who have the grossly mistaken idea that more guns makes us safer overrule the will of the people who have seen with their own eyes the damage they continue to wreak on society.

I strongly support H.B. 7218, H.B. 7219 and S.B. 60 and urge you to favorably vote these bills out of the Judiciary Committee

Sincerely,

Patricia Sivo Cole, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist
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