

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

My name is Connie Cooper, from Sandy Hook, CT.

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.

To put it simply, I support common sense gun reform to save lives, which is the purpose of these four bills.

#### H.B. 7218 and H.B. 7223

These two bills would not hinder one's ability to protect himself or herself and will prevent horrific accidents. Adding the ages of 16 and 17 is important for obvious reasons.

#### H.B. 7219

There is no valid argument for anyone to possess unregistered, untraceable, undetectable firearms. NO MORE NEEDS TO BE SAID in reference to the insanity of ghost guns. Anyone with any common sense at all knows the resulting loss of human life if this bill doesn't pass. There should be a federal law to ban all ghost guns, but until then, CT must pass its own and hope all other states will do the same. Shame on the Trump administration for not taking the lead on banning ghost guns.

#### S.B. 60

All drivers are required to show their their driver's license and all fishermen and fisherwomen are required to show their fishing licenses. To wait until a crime is imminent for a gun carrier to show his or her carry permit makes no sense. I attended last year's hearing for this bill. CT's police force overwhelmingly supported this bill. I believe they said that over 90% of their calls regarding gun carriers were from concerned citizens who were afraid when they saw a person's gun. If a police officer could have asked the gun carrier to see his or her permit, I believe it would have alleviated the fear of the concerned citizens, while at the same time discouraging illegal gun carriers from bring a gun in public. I remember discussion about profiling. My late husband was African American. He displayed his Dept. of Corrections badge on his console because of his fear of driving while black and felt this would help to keep him safe. I feel profiling is a legitimate concern in many situations, but I feel this is an exception. In my opinion, S.B. 60 will be a de-escalator, not an escalator of violence, and being a deterrent from bringing illegal guns in public, I believe it will save the lives of people of all colors.

Sincerely,  
Connie Cooper  
Sandy Hook, CT