

03/10/2019

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, and distinguished members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary,

I would like to thank you for your time, and for the opportunity to submit my testimony today.

My name is John Cripps, I am from Seymour, CT. I am a life long resident of the state of CT. As a firearms owner, these bills will have a significant and direct impact on my life as a CT Citizen.

I Oppose S.B. No. 60 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESENTATION OF A CARRY PERMIT.
This bill clearly targets law abiding citizens that have gone through the permit process. Removing "reasonable suspicion of a crime" from the current statute is a bad idea. It opens up law abiding citizens to potential profiling and "stop and frisk" harassment simply for exercising our right to keep and bear arms and in no way adds to public safety.

I Oppose H.B. No. 7218 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS IN THE HOME.
Loaded firearms are already required to be lawfully stored. H.B. No 7218 extends this to unloaded firearms and is a purely punitive measure that would be used to punish a legal firearms owner for unlawful conduct perpetrated by others who took and loaded their unloaded firearms. Responsibility needs to be placed on the individuals conducting the unlawful activity. With respect to Minors, they should be instructed in gun safety and the respect of personal property. This would be a welcome preventative measure.

I Oppose H.B. No. 7223 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STORAGE OF A PISTOL OR REVOLVER IN A MOTOR VEHICLE.
This is an unnecessary inconvenience for law abiding citizens that carry a firearm or who are traveling to and from the range. Our locked car is already secure. Breaking into, or stealing our car is already a crime. Using a safe in our car will not prevent a criminal from also stealing the firearm. The end result of this bill would be that gun owners would be prosecuted for being a victim of a robbery.

I Oppose H.B. No. 7219 AN ACT CONCERNING GHOST GUNS
This is overly broad legislation that would redefine the State's definition of a firearm to include unfinished "frame or lower receiver". This would also include the frame or lower receiver blanks, casting or machined body that still requires further machining or molding to be used as part of a functional firearm. This could also ban the re-assembly of pre-1968 firearms that don't have serial numbers.

I Support S.B. 940 AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN PERSONS TO CARRY HANDGUNS IN STATE PARKS AND STATE FORESTS.
This would allow permit holders to protect ourselves and our families from possible dangers when visiting State Parks and Forests.

I Support H.B. 5227 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF FIREARMS BY MUNICIPALITIES.
This bill would ensure that CT citizens have a consistent set of firearms laws to abide by throughout the state.

I Support H.B. 5870 AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSFER OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES.

This bill corrects an oversight in the original legislation that grandfathered existing "Assault Weapons" and "Large Capacity Magazines" that were registered with the state. It does not allow for any new "Assault Weapons" or "Large Capacity Magazines" in this state, but simply allows for transfers among the legal firearm enthusiasts that already possess them.

In summary, I urge you to favorably vote S.B. 940, H.B. 5227 and H.B. 5870 out of the Judiciary Committee and to oppose S.B. 60, H.B. 7218, H.B. 7219 and H.B. 7223.

Sincerely,

John Cripps
Seymour, CT