



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Monday, March 11, 2019

Dear Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom and all of the esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in support bills:

- S.B. No. 60 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESENTATION OF A CARRY PERMIT.
- H.B. No. 7218 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS IN THE HOME.
- H.B. No. 7219 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING GHOST GUNS.
- H.B. No. 7223 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE STORAGE OF A PISTOL OR REVOLVER IN A MOTOR VEHICLE.

I am writing in opposition to bills:

- S.B. No. 940 (RAISED) AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN PERSONS TO CARRY HANDGUNS IN STATE PARKS AND STATE FORESTS.
- H.B. No. 5227 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF FIREARMS BY MUNICIPALITIES.
- H.B. No. 5870 AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSFER OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES.

It is hard to watch the news today and not hear about gun violence whether it is in a place of worship, a movie theater or even an elementary school. There are even more events that never make the headlines, the incidents of guns getting into the wrong hands where accidental discharges can cause death or life threatening injury. Many of these tragedies could be averted with common sense gun reform.

Just like showing a driver's license when operating an automobile to an officer who pulls someone over, SB 60 would ensure that if asked, a gun owner would be asked for the permit that would enable someone to carry their firearm. Currently, a gun owner can be pulled over for reckless driving and have a visible gun and a police officer cannot ask the individual for a carry permit. A responsible gun owner would not have an issue with carrying this license and this law could help get illegal guns out of our state.

Safe gun storage both in the home and in cars under HB7218 and HB7223 can prevent guns from getting into the wrong hands. We have all heard of the tragic death of Ethan Song and many others accidentally killed in a misfire of an improperly held weapon, many times by an inexperienced child (1.7M American children live in a home with a gun). Nearly 2/3 of all gun deaths are by suicides and many of these are a result of accessing an improperly stored weapon. This can be prevented by safely storing unloaded weapons in a locked container and locked separately, the ammunition. One of my best friends, has a gun collection and he has a large safe which is under a code that only he and his wife know. The guns are not loaded ammunition is stored locked, separately, in the locked safe. My friend has years of training and experience with firearms and knows that safely locking up his guns are keeping him and his family safe from accidents.

Guns should be marked with serial numbers in order to properly track in the event of loss or theft and track if involved in an accident or a crime. HB7219 bans the sale of gun sold without serial numbers and regulates those sold in pieces or homemade 3D printed guns. Every car has a serial number to track in the event of theft; guns should not be any different. We need to track guns to ensure that they do not fall in the wrong hands.

Our state parks are places of family fun and enjoying nature and should be free from gun violence. Firearms do not have a place in the parks, even in self-defense by anyone, including licensed individuals. Connecticut is not home to vast amounts of wild animals that can kill humans. Just by the presence of firearms, accidents are more likely to happen and an innocent life would be endangered. I do not believe that SB940 will enhance our state park experiences had by the majority of our residents and is not the best tool for self-defense.

Our state should have cohesive gun laws and while HB 5227 would prevent municipalities from creating individual restrictions on gun, transfers and sales subsection (c):

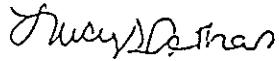
A municipality shall not define any activity related to firearms as constituting a public nuisance or as being detrimental to public health and safety; would prevent municipalities from not allowing firearms in certain locations and I do believe that municipalities should have the right to determine where or where not guns should be allowed to be. (schools, municipal parks, libraries or city hall etc.).

Finally, large capacity weapons do not have a place in Connecticut and there should be restrictions on sales and transfers of these firearms. HB 4870 would allow certain people to be able to transfer assault weapons and large capacity to other individuals who are legally allowed to have these weapons. These weapons of war, are not needed for hunting or sport and cause serious injury or death to many with very little effort and have been responsible for many mass shootings. We need to make it harder to get these large capacity weapons, not easier.

Reducing and preventing gun violence is a public safety issue and protecting second amendment rights is important. SB 60, HB7218, HB7219 and HB7213 do not impede on the rights in the second amendment, they are protecting our citizens both gun owners and non-gun owners alike.

Thank you for hearing these bills and I look forward to the opportunity to work with you on these issues.

Kind regards



Lucy Dathan
New Canaan
Representative District 142