

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

I am a Connecticut resident and mother of two 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*.

My younger child is 12 years old, the same age the children who were murdered at Sandy Hook would be if they were alive today. My older child is in tenth grade, as Ethan Song would be if he were alive today. I will never forget the moment I heard of their deaths, nor will I forget the terrible experience of telling my children that kids like them had died by gun violence.

I am inspired by the Parkland survivors, who have turned their fear and anger into activism. But as an adult, I am ashamed that these children have had to speak out for their own safety. In Connecticut, we can do better.

I support H.B. 7218 *An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home* and H.B. 7223 *An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in Vehicles*, because I believe securing unloaded guns will have a positive impact on accidental gun deaths and suicides, particularly with respect to children, and mass shootings and other crimes involving guns. I believe we need to close the loophole in current law, which requires that only loaded guns be secured, because children should not bear the burden of protecting themselves from an adult's gun.

I support H.B. 7219 *An Act Concerning Ghost Guns*, because untraceable, unregulated guns are a blatant threat to public safety. Failing to regulate these guns is utterly indefensible. We have no federal leadership on this issue, so Connecticut lawmakers must act now.

I support S.B. 60 *An Act Concerning the Presentation of a Carry Permit*, because the sight of a person openly carrying a gun in these times causes suspicion at best and panic at worst. Law enforcement should be given every tool to defuse tense situations that could lead to violence. People who are openly carrying are required to have their permits on them. It is no significant burden to be asked to produce it.

For the above reasons, 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,
Christine Dokko
Guilford, CT