

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

My name is Eric Donnelly and I am from Bridgeport, 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*.

In 2005, my parents Tim and Kim Donnelly were killed with a handgun during a robbery at their Jewelry store in Fairfield, CT. Due to the nature and circumstances of the crime, the defendant, Chris Dimeo, faced the death penalty. Over the course of several months, my family and I attended the trial, and learned in extreme detail Mr. Dimeo's story and his eventual confrontation at my parents store. Chris Dimeo is a heroin addict, and funded his habit through a series of robberies and petty crimes. In November of 2004, while robbing a home in Greenwich, CT, Chris found an unsecured handgun in a nightstand. After this acquisition, he quickly escalated to armed robbery, and homicide.

I have seen first hand how devastating it is when a gun gets into the wrong hands. 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

Eric Donnelly,  
Bridgeport, CT