

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

My name is Kelsey Evans; I am from New Haven, CT. I am a part of a group at Yale University called For Our Lives, an organization dedicated to gun violence advocacy and fighting for gun control and gun sense legislation.

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*.

Although I don't have a specific personal experience with gun violence, I don't need to know how important it is to pass laws to improve the safety of our communities and our families – as a college student, I've grown up my entire life watching gun violence claim the lives of thousands of people a year. It's impossible to stand by, especially when so many of these deaths are preventable. I care about the people around me, so it's my responsibility to support laws that will have an immediate, tangible impact on their safety. That's why I support these four gun sense bills.

HB 7218 and HB 7223, for safe gun storage, will have immediate impact on saving people's lives. Securely storing guns can prevent the accidental shooting of family members, and prevent children and teenagers from getting ahold of a gun by accident, which is all too common. This lowers the possibility for suicide, homicide, school shootings, and more, in addition to preventing the gun from being stolen and used in a crime elsewhere. Owning a gun is a big responsibility, so if someone chooses to do so, they should at a minimum store it safely, whether in the home or in their vehicle. This is especially true in a house with children or teenagers – children deserve to be safe in their own home, without the chance to accidentally fire a gun or access it without knowing the full ramifications to their actions.

HB 7219 is absolutely necessary as well. It makes absolutely no sense to allow an individual to just make a gun in their home or workplace, with no serial number, untraceable, and no need for a background check. These guns would be impossible to count and track, and even people with criminal convictions for past gun violence or other violent behavior would be able to obtain one with little difficulty. It's extremely important that this loophole in gun manufacturing be closed.

Finally, SB 60 requiring people to show their open carry permit is important for transparency. If someone wants to carry a gun in public, they should be willing to show that they own it legally, to help cut down on instances of people carrying guns illegally in public. This will overall improve public safety in our communities.

I strongly support H.B. 7218, H.B. 7223, H.B. 7219 and S.B. 60 and urge you to favorably vote these bills out of the Judiciary Committee.

Sincerely,
Kelsey Evans
New Haven, CT

