

Peterson, Bobbye

From: RM Feldman <rmfeldman09@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2019 12:22 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of SB 60 & 940; HB 5870,7219

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

My name is Ruth M Feldman and I am from Madison, CT.

More importantly, I am a concerned CT resident and supporter of common sense gun legislation. That does not mean that I want to “take anyone’s gun away,” or that I am against the 2nd amendment; rather I am interested in making our state safer, and eliminating one of the significant threats to our communities.

I have previously testified in support of H.B. 7218, *An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home*, but want to add my testimony in support of the following:

- SB 60 *An Act concerning the presentation of a carry permit* and SB 940 - *regarding carry in state parks and state forests*. Last spring, there was an incident at a town beach here in Madison. With families and children enjoying a warm day at the shore, concerned citizens contacted police to report a man “openly carrying a gun on the premises.” Though the matter was settled without incident, I put to you the following: in spite of regulations stating alcohol should not be consumed on town/state beaches, we know that happens. The insertion of a firearm into that scenario places families at risk. Where citizens convene with families and friends need not be a place that requires a firearm. But should that happen, giving the appropriate authorities the right to request an individual to present their permit may prevent a tragedy from occurring. I urge you to give authorities the right to ask to see a person’s carry permit, but also to ban firearms from state parks and forests.

- HB 5870 regarding the transfer of assault weapons and high capacity ammunition. Let me be clear, as stated above I do not question a person’s right to own a firearm, however, I cannot for the life of me understand why a common citizen needs to own an assault weapon and/or a firearm capable of using high capacity ammunition. My heart aches for the many lives we have lost not just across the country, but here in our own state. It pains me to think that after Sandy Hook, here in CT, we have not passed legislation that might have saved the lives of those children and educators. I am imploring you to take a stand now, and pass HB5870.

- HB7219 *An Act Concerning Ghost Guns*. There continue to be so many loopholes in the gun purchasing industry, HB7219 would help close one enormous one: to ban the sale of unregistered weapons. Where is the need for anyone to purchase an unregistered, untraceable firearm, except perhaps for an individual or individuals who should not have access to any firearm. Having worked for more than 20 years in New Haven schools, I have seen firsthand the impact of gun violence on too many faces of children, parents, and teachers. Passing HB7219 might actually help reduce gun deaths in our urban and suburban neighborhoods.

I am a common sense gun law supporter and hope that you, our legislators, put the safety of our children and families at the forefront as well.

Sincerely,
Ruth M Feldman
Madison, CT