

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

My name is Karen Fischer and I am from New London. I have advocated for prevention of gun violence since the Columbine shooting and since my husband (a school superintendent) was threatened by a disgruntled employee. We must do all we can to prevent murders, suicides, school and unintentional shootings.

I am testifying in support of 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*, H.B. 7219.

People who own guns must responsibly store them when the guns are not in direct control by the owner. Most gun owners are responsible. My son-in-law is a gun owner and his guns are kept in a safe. My niece's husband repossesses cars. He keeps a gun in a secure, screwed down lock box in his truck.

Those who don't secure their guns facilitate crime related gun violence (stolen guns). The murderer of Rep. de la Cruz's son in Groton used a stolen gun.

Unsecured guns, whether loaded or unloaded with bullets readily accessible, facilitate unintentional shootings (like that of Ethan Song). I read every single day about a child being shot or shooting another child or adult using an unsecured gun!!

Unsecured guns can lead to teen suicide. Attempted suicide is often an impulsive act, with time from thought to pulling the trigger about 10 minutes. Suicide by gun is fatal 85% of the time.

Unsecured guns in homes are the source of 75% of school shootings!

States with strict storage laws (MA) have a significantly lower rate of stolen guns, unintentional shootings and teen suicide by gun. Gun owners know they can be held accountable if they don't secure their guns so they follow the law.

All guns in homes must be locked up. All guns left in cars must be locked up. We must hold gun owners responsible for doing so.

Karen Fischer

New London