

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

My name is Amber French, I am from Fairfield, CT. I am a member of the ENOUGH Campaign and a working mother.

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*.

The reason I am a gun violence prevention advocate is due to the severe epidemic we are facing here in America with regard to gun deaths. The catalyst for my becoming a member of the ENOUGH Campaign was the Sandy Hook Massacre back in 2012. My hope since that day has been that there would never be another mass shooting. Sadly, that has not been our reality in this nation. I have children who are school age who have to practice lockdown drills and who ask me if the glass by the front doors of their school is bulletproof so that when a shooter comes, he is unable to get them. This is the type of world we live in now. To this day, I still remember exactly where I was and what I was doing when I saw the Columbine school shooting on the news. It shocked and sickened me. It was the first one I had heard of. Today, as you know, we hear about mass shootings weekly. We also hear about singular gun deaths daily: accidental, homicidal, and suicidal. Something has to change. We cannot wait any longer. I implore you to help make our country better.

I support the HB 7218 bill because 1.) It will save countless lives. 2.) It heavily limits the access for which a child can find an unloaded gun and the ammunition. In other words, if the unloaded gun is locked up AND the ammunition is locked up, and the key is hidden where only the owner knows where it is or the safe lock is not shared, chances are significantly reduced for loss of life to occur. 3.) Accountability is on the gun owner if they are careless in their approach to locking the guns up. If the gun owner knows the responsibility can fall on them for a death, they are much more apt to following the law which in turn will help save lives. 4.) In the example of Ethan Song, we see that even an unloaded gun that is not locked can cause a death when ammunition is nearby and accessible. 5.) 80% of teen suicides are with a family member's gun. Keeping guns stored securely will help save lives. We live in a time where suicide among teens is at an all time high. If access to a gun is easy, then suicide becomes easy.

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, Amber French
Fairfield, CT