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CPHA is an affiliate of
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Health Association.

**Testimony in Support of HB 7219
An Act Concerning Ghost Guns
Judiciary Committee, March 11, 2019**

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

On behalf of the Connecticut Public Health Association (CPHA) for which I serve as Chair of the Advocacy Committee, I am pleased to submit this testimony **in strong support of House Bill 7219** which would ban guns without serial numbers and regulate ghost guns. CPHA's mission is to provide leadership on health promotion and disease prevention through advocacy, communication, education, and workforce development.

The frame or "lower receiver" is the essential part of a gun used by federal law to define what is considered to be a "firearm." However, manufacturers have evaded state and federal gun laws by marketing unfinished "80-percent" lower receivers that are easily available online (see ghostguns.com). The kits instruct users how to make DIY guns by drilling holes and slots and finishing the assembly with other parts. Three-D printed guns are made entirely from plastic using commercially available 3D printers.

Ghost guns threaten the public's safety because:

- they carry no serial numbers, are untraceable, and require no background check to buy.
- anyone, regardless of his or her criminal history, can buy a "do it yourself" kit to assemble firearms that range from crude pieces of metal to sophisticated weaponry.
- with rapidly advancing technology, anyone can create fully functional 3D-printed guns. This loophole in the system allows for the evasion of state and federal laws as manufacturers can easily market unfinished lower receivers online.
- according to a U.S. Government Accountability Office report, criminal organizations have been increasingly reliant on ghost guns as a source of weaponry. After a 2015 ghost gun trafficking ring was busted in Long Island, ghost guns were identified as the "new frontier of illegal firearms trafficking."

Ghost guns are already in Connecticut:

- In January 2019 a Southington man was convicted for trying to sell a ghost gun on armslist.com, advertising it as "No serial. Completed from 80 lower. No paperwork."
- In 2018 a Willimantic teen was arrested for selling multiple ghost guns, telling an undercover agent that demand was so high, he couldn't keep up.

We hope you will vote in favor of regulating ghost guns, for the safety of our state. Thank you for allowing CPHA to submit this testimony. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at robertafriedman@cpha.info or (860) 992-7749.

Sincerely,

Roberta R. Friedman, ScM
Chair, CPHA Advocacy Committee