

March 10, 2019

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

I am testifying in strong **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.*

My name is Margaret Gaines. I live in Simsbury, Ct. I am a mother of 3 adults (a teacher, a librarian, and a first responder), a grandmother of 3 young children, and a newly retired teacher.

As a teacher I have been in several lockdowns for external threats. During one, which was in response to a near-by domestic violence with a gun incident, I could see teachers and the principal trying to get the first graders quickly off the playground as the police chased a person with a gun through the neighborhood.

Several years ago I found myself sewing a shade for my daughter's classroom door that could be instantly dropped during a lockdown so a shooter could not see into her room. As a mother that was very sobering.

Because of these experiences and others as well as the many incidences of gun violence in Connecticut and our country, I have become a strong supporter of common sense gun laws. Firearms must be kept out of the hands of those who should not have them. Ghost guns are unregistered and not serialized which is quite simply totally unacceptable. Firearms must be safely stored to stop preventable tragic accidents.

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.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Margaret Gaines

Simsbury, CT