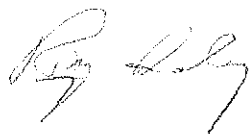


Good morning Chairman Winfield, Stafstrom, and members of the judiciary committee. My name is Ray Hanley from Southbury, Connecticut and I'm here this morning to speak in opposition to Bill SB-60, HB-7218, HB-7219, and HB-7223. I support SB-940, and strongly support HB-5874. In the time allotted to explain opposition or support of six bills is not possible. But I feel that to voice opposition or support of a bill without explanation or an alternative offer isn't the most productive method of arriving at a solution to a problem. First of all, I don't see guns as the problem. I see guns as by-product of a problem, not the problem itself. So what is the problem? Well, I see a multitude of possibilities. I feel number one is drugs. I also feel the breakdown of family life and values and also greed are contributing factors. Greed because I'm told there's so much money that can be made dealing in illegal drugs. Frankly, breakdown, teaching basic discipline and moral values plus failure to assume responsibility for ones actions has to be fixed. How, I don't know. People far above my pay grade don't seem to be able to come up with the solutions either. One suggestion I would like to offer is to strictly enforce the many gun laws we already have on the books. One common phrase that frustrates me is "it's time for common sense gun laws" Then what are the multitude of existing gun laws? Not common sense, I would have to conclude.

House Bill 7218 deals with storage of a firearm in a home with a minor under 18. A few years ago in Naugatuck there was a tragedy involving a couple of youths who came in possession of a firearm. One died as a result. The dead boy's mother started an organization called GRIEF, which stood for Gun Responsibility in Every Family. I would offer a suggestion. To change the name to RIEF: Responsibility in every family. As I said, I don't have the answers. But until we effectively start eliminating the source of gun violence, more gun laws are not the answer.

Thank you for your time

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Hanley". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.