

Peterson, Bobbye

From: JOHN HARRIS <harris_john@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2019 4:10 PM
To: JudTestimony; Sen. Witkos, Kevin; Rep. Hampton, John
Subject: Testimony in support of HB-7218, HB-7223, HB-7219 and SB-60

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, ranking members Kissel and Rebimbas and distinguished members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary; as well as, Senator Witkos and Representative Hampton:

As a lifelong citizen of Connecticut, currently from the town of Simsbury, I writing to testify 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.

Having been associated with the healthcare system for well over 20 years – I have watched the devastation gun violence has caused on individuals, families, public servants and our communities.

In addition, as a taxpayer, the costs to communities and the healthcare system from the violence and damage which guns bring into our state, I believe it is past time for sensible and smart legislative action to insure our children, our families and as a citizen-myself, are protected from the damage guns are causing in our state.

Relative to H.B. 7218 and H.B. 7223– I grew up in Guilford, Connecticut and the recent death of Ethan Song is a prime example of why this bill is needed. As a parent, I should have the security that my child when visiting a gun owners home he or she will not have access to and or be accidentally killed because a gun is unsecured. Just recently, in the state of Indiana, a trooper was shot by his own child because he left his gun unsecured within his vehicle. <https://wsbt.com/news/local/docs-state-trooper-shot-by-11-year-old-son-because-his-video-games-were-taken-away>

Relative to H.B. 7219 – My husband is an active member of the 3-D printing industry. We have multiple 3D printers in our home; it is a wonderful technology when used appropriately. There is absolutely no need to have the ability to print a gun and not register a gun unless you are out to do something nefarious. Having a legally registered gun with a serial number needs to be mandated due to the need to protect the public.

Relative to SB60 – SB60 is supported by the police, emergency services personnel – the professionals responsible for the citizens of our state. The requirement to provide a permit when asked is not onerous nor an infringement on an individuals liberties. What it does do – is clarify for our emergency service personnel and those charged with our safety with the ability to ensure the greater public is safe without having to guess as to the legality of individual brandishing a gun in an intense and difficult situation.

None of these bills – result in individual gun owners inability or restriction to own, possess or carry a legally registered gun. What they do – is provide to the greater public a reasonable amount of security and safety; allow our public servants to do their jobs with greater certainty, and take minimal steps to curb gun violence in our communities.

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.