

## Peterson, Bobbye

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**From:** Zachary Hayden <haydenz@oxfordacademy.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 1:48 PM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of HB-7218, HB-7223, and HB-7219 for the Judiciary Committee

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

My name is Zachary Hayden, I am from Westbrook. I am a father, a teacher, and spent my childhood and young adult years an avid sportsman growing up in rural Vermont.

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*, and H.B. 7219, *An Act Concerning Ghost Guns*.

I am disappointed that common sense safety measures that can save lives and reduce crimes become politicized and undermined by a co-opted "freedom" narrative. I expect our lawmakers to be above this kind of corporate and special interest maneuvering and support legislation like the three laws below that offer a safe and reasonable path forward for Connecticut.

H.B. 7218 and H.B. 7223 set high expectations for safeguarding all citizenry, especially our children who naturally explore our homes, vehicles and those of our friends and relatives. I am fully aware that many gun owners make the responsible choice of storing their guns safely of their own volition, but legislation needs to make this practice a standard expectation and provide more consistency in terms of safe storage education and options.

Law abiding and responsible gun owners should have no qualms supporting H.B. 7219. The world of commerce and criminal conspiring has changed and the loopholes that allow criminals and bad actors to carry out their vocations need to be closed. Connecticut can be more of a leader in trying to tame the dark web and its unfortunate proliferation of the trade in unregistered weapons.

These laws help law enforcement agencies as much as parents and community members. I was always taught to respect how dangerous a gun can be. I think these laws emphasize that level of respect, setting higher expectations for gunowners and diminishing the opportunities for criminal manipulation of our current laws regarding gun ownership.

I strongly support H.B. 7218, H.B. 7219, and H.B. 7223.

Sincerely,

Zachary Hayden  
Westbrook, CT

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Zachary D. Hayden  
Dean of Faculty