



# State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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**MEMBER**  
AGING COMMITTEE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

**Judiciary Committee Public Hearing**  
**Monday, March 11, 2019**  
**Testimony 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

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

My name is Anne Hughes, representing District 135 of Easton, Weston, and Redding. I have testified before this same committee as a social worker and as a concerned citizen, in support of similar gun safety proposals, in 2013, 2014, 2016.

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*, H.B. 7219, *An Act Concerning Ghost Guns* and S.B. 60 *An Act Concerning the Presentation of a Carry Permit*.

I offer testimony again in strong support of each of these common sense proposals, whose time has surely come. 'How many deaths will it take till we know...' that too many of us have died, before we act?

H.B. 7218 An Act Concerning the Safe Storage, and H.B. 7223 An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in Vehicles:

While my constituents and neighbors have assured us lawmakers, "We have stored firearms safely from children and grandchildren for many years without incident. We oppose the government's intrusion into our private homes," *Indeed, we recall a similar time when our parents and grandparents drove around their children and grandchildren in their cars unrestrained by seatbelts without incident, but ultimately accepted the mandatory safety measure, implemented state by state, beginning with NY in 1984. Since the passage of the first seatbelt federal standards, the laws regarding safety restraints slowly evolved into the standard*

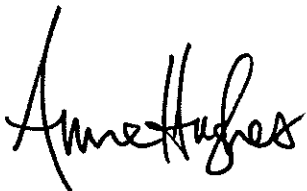
seatbelt laws we follow today as acceptable 'intrusion into the domain of our homes, cars and daily habits' a preventable mandatory safety law that has saved countless lives of vehicle occupants. In fact, it wasn't until the insurance industry finally realized how much savings seat belts would save that State Farm Insurance brings the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to court over the matter. State Farm wins the case and the NHTSA is ordered to write a new regulation for automatic restraint systems, in 1984. The NHTSA proposes that automatic restraint systems be required in new vehicles unless mandatory seat belt laws covered two-thirds of population by September 1989. Automakers, safety advocates, and the NHTSA join forces to encourage states' passage of such laws. In startling contrast to the glacial pace of earlier attempts at seat-belt reform, it takes just one year for mandatory seat belt use propositions to be introduced in all states but Idaho and Nevada.

I believe 2019 is CT's 'seatbelt moment' for leadership for safe storage laws in the home and car, and as a member of the Insurance Committee, I urge our industry colleagues to heed the proverbial writing on the wall and support common sense safety measures to help increase the security of our community. We want the security of knowing when we invite each other through our doors, our homes, for a ride in our cars, we do not have to wonder if there is a lethal firearm left casually under the seat, ammunition in a drawer or glove compartment, tempting the curious child, the visiting friend or family member, to tragic, preventable consequence. We know better. It's time to do better.

In the wake of thousands of preventable gun deaths since 2012, when 'ghost guns' weren't even accessible, we now need proactive, updated laws that match the speed and the threat of highly advertised 'unserialized, unregistered' firearms. It's time to protect our public, protect our communities, our families and reduce accidental firearm deaths. Accidental firearm deaths are preventable. We know that the gun industry thrives and enjoys liability immunity for the moment. But for how long? May they also heed the accountability reckoning that is coming. The public will that is driving these legislative proposals indicate this is CT's 'seatbelt moment' to lead the way. May we live to remember how we turned firearm safety into commonplace, everyday household habit. Let's do this. It's time.

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.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anne Hughes