

March 11, 2019

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee -

I am writing to you as a mother of four children; as an urban educator; as a resident of Bridgeport, CT; and as a very concerned American citizen. Growing up in Bridgeport, I have been acutely aware of the devastating effects of gun violence on the citizens of our nation for as long as I can remember. My cousin was involved in a shooting in Bridgeport when I was 11, and I lost beloved friends in Fairfield when their jewelry store was robbed, and they were murdered when I was 25. During my 18 years as an urban educator, I have lost students and have seen them lose countless numbers of friends and family members.

Connecticut has been a true leader in our country from a legislative perspective and because of this, I am incredibly grateful to be raising my four children in Connecticut. I am hopeful that we will continue to lead the way when it comes to strong gun safety laws, as the data has proven out that they work to reduce injuries and deaths. See the examples in this article:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/govbeat/wp/2015/06/12/gun-killings-fell-by-40-percent-after-connecticut-passed-this-law>

Here I would like to document my SUPPORT for the following bills:

- 1) HB-7218, AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS IN THE HOME (Ethan's Law).
- 2) HB-7219, AN ACT CONCERNING GHOST GUNS.
- 3) HB-7223, AN ACT CONCERNING THE STORAGE OF A PISTOL OR REVOLVER IN A MOTOR VEHICLE.
- 4) SB-60, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESENTATION OF A CARRY PERMIT.

Here I would like to document my REJECTION of the following bills:

- 1) SB - 940, AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZING CERTAIN PERSONS TO CARRY HANDGUNS IN STATE PARKS AND STATE FORESTS.
- 2) HB- 5870, AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSFER OF ASSUALT WEAPONS AND LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES.
- 3) HB-5227, AN ACT CONCERING THE REGULATION OF FIREARMS BY MUNICIPALITIES.

My 18 years of working alongside survivors of gun violence in urban schools (7 of those on the East Side of Bridgeport), as well as with legislators and other community gun violence prevention activists has led me to believe that in order to keep our families, communities, cities, state and nation safer from gun violence, moving forward in Connecticut as recommended above is the only way forward.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Kabel

Bridgeport, CT