

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

My name is Veronica Kenausis, I am from Bethel. I am a concerned CT resident, mom of 3 adult children, and a passionate gun violence prevention advocate since one of my dearest friends survived the Sandy Hook tragedy.

I am testifying in support of H.B. 7218, An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home, and H.B. 7219, An Act Concerning Ghost Guns.

I have learned so much about the epidemic of gun violence since 12/14/12, in all its shapes and forms. The vast majority of the more than 30,000 annual gun deaths in our country are 100% preventable with common sense approaches and legislation to back them up such as these two bills.

Testimony Supporting H.B. 7218: An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home

When my children were teenagers, I was introduced to Public Act No. 12-199, AN ACT PROHIBITING CERTAIN PERSONS FROM ALLOWING MINORS TO POSSESS ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR IN DWELLING UNITS AND ON PRIVATE PROPERTY, which states, in part, "*No person having possession of, or exercising dominion and control over, any dwelling unit or private property shall (1) knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence, permit any minor to possess alcoholic liquor in violation of subsection (b) of section 30-89 in such dwelling unit or on such private property.*" Fines and possible prison time are the consequences for homeowners who "*fail to make reasonable efforts to halt such possession.*" H.B 7218 is the social host law companion for firearms. It is the sole responsibility of the owner of the firearm to store that deadly weapon securely so curious children and adventurous teens do not gain access and cause unimaginable tragedy. Gun owners who fail to make reasonable efforts to restrict access to firearms should be held legally and criminally accountable for any incidents of violence perpetrated with the weapon.

Testimony Supporting H.B. 7219: An Act Concerning Ghost Guns

UNTRACEABLE GUNS MADE WITHOUT BACKGROUND CHECKS DON'T BELONG IN CT. According to the organization Connecticut Against Gun Violence, last year 7 ghost guns were recovered from the streets of Bridgeport alone. Others have been arrested trying to sell assault weapons made at home. When the state legislature failed to act, both Bridgeport and Stamford passed their own local ordinances banning them. This is a common sense measure that will help save lives in Connecticut. Please help us regulate these self-assembled guns the same way we do other firearms.

I strongly support H.B. 7218, H.B. 7219 and urge you to favorably vote these bills out of the Judiciary Committee.

Sincerely,
Veronica Kenausis
Bethel, CT