

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

My name is Edward T. Leitkowski Jr. I am a resident of Colchester, CT.

Please accept my written testimony regarding proposed legislation currently before the Committee.

**Specifically, I wish to express my SUPPORT for the following:**

**S.B. No. 940 AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN PERSONS TO CARRY HANDGUNS IN STATE PARKS AND STATE FORESTS,**

- A welcome relief of restrictions which allows a person who is duly licensed to carry a firearm, to do so within State Parks & Forest, thus ensuring they retain a viable means of self-defense against an aggressor.
- Aggressors today can be of many forms, both two-legged and four-legged, and increased contact between humans and bobcats and bears have been on the rise in recent years.

**S.B. No. 5227 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF FIREARMS BY MUNICIPALITIES,**

- There should be no mechanism by which a locality can impose restrictions upon rights that are Constitutionally provided. Both the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment of the United States Constitution, and the Connecticut State Constitution (Art. 1, Section 15) protect the right to bear arms and cannot legally be superseded by a subordinate body.

and

**H.B. No. 5870 AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSFER OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES,**

- Lawful owners should not be restricted from transferring their property

**In addition, I wish to express my OPPOSITION to the following:**

**S.B. No. 60 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESENTATION OF A CARRY PERMIT.**

- Sufficient authority is already granted law enforcement officers in the execution of their duties to initiate contact with the public and engage those who may be in the act of violating the law.
- Open carry is wholly legal in Connecticut and has been reiterated as such by internal communications within the Connecticut State Police leadership to the ranks of CSP in the field.
- Implementation of SB 60 would be a potential violation of Fourth Amendment rights protecting against illegal search and seizure.

**S.B. No. 7218 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS IN THE HOME.**

- There is no way in which this proposed bill can be enforced without conducting an on-site spot check of a residence. Without probable cause, such a search would be deemed illegal.
- Reliance on a biometric-operated device, many of which have been proven to be unreliable in less than ideal conditions, can be a deadly choice when firearm access is required in an emergency situation.
- In the event that a firearm is needed in an immediate self-defense situation, having to overcome a locked storage container may provide the delay which results in an intruder overtaking a homeowner, resulting in severe injury or death.
- Under conditions of extreme stress, such as that of a self-defense encounter, the autonomic nervous system takes over, tunnel vision sets in, adrenaline rushes through the bloodstream, circulatory restriction occurs in preparation to protect the body in the event of injury, and most notably fine motor control is significantly reduced. This loss of fine motor control further limits the manipulation of devices or mechanisms which activate the latching components of common storage devices. Such loss of control could prevent the owner from obtaining access to their firearm at a time when it is most desperately needed.

**S.B. No. 7219 AN ACT CONCERNING GHOST GUNS.**

- This proposed bill is conflating aspects of the federal Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988 by attempting to incorporate a "security exemplar" insert of 3.7 oz of 17-4 PH stainless steel in any polymer/plastic gun.
- It is an attempt to eliminate a long-standing tradition of craftsmanship by those who enjoy the challenge and satisfaction of producing complex homemade products.

**S.B. No. 7223 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STORAGE OF A PISTOL OR REVOLVER IN A MOTOR VEHICLE**

- The requirement to secure a firearm in a locked container imposes an unnecessary burden on the firearm owner and introduces an attractive nuisance which subjects the owner to an enhanced potential for break-in and theft of the stored firearm.
- Few modern vehicles afford sufficient room to conceal a container that is adequate to safely secure a firearm, nor means to anchor such a container that is not easily defeated with simple tools (crowbar, bolt cutters, hammer).

**I respectfully request that you favorably vote S.B. 940, H.B. 52277, H.B. 5870 out of the Judiciary Committee and oppose S.B. 60, H.B. 7218, H.B. 7219, and H.B. 7223.**

Sincerely,

Edward T. Leitkowski Jr.

Colchester, CT