

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

My name is Sarah Manning from Westport, CT. 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 have had personal experience with gun violence several times in my life. As a child I was left alone to lie on the floor of a closet to hide from a distraught woman who was shooting at the house I was visiting while the adults tried to persuade her to surrender the gun. As a young adult I was assaulted by a man with a gun; I don't know why he let me go. More recently I have been terrified for my extended family when a troubled kid was looking for a weapon to use in his frustration and no one could be sure he hadn't gotten ahold of one. Growing up with family who hunt and collect guns has informed my understanding that many people who consider themselves "responsible gun owners" are in fact, not.

H.B. 7218 and H.B. 7223 are both extremely important to me because the data shows most children killed by a gun would still be alive if the firearms had been securely stored. This alone is reason to tighten our requirements. The completely avoidable deaths of so many children has no compelling rebuttal.

H.B. 7219 is a sensible regulation that is in keeping with the spirit of "well regulated" that the second amendment stipulates. There is no logical argument for allowing anyone to possess unregistered, untraceable undetectable firearms. The threat to public safety is obvious and we have a duty to protect society from unregulated access to firearms.

S.B. 60 is supported by the CT Police Chief's Association, the CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the Chief State's Attorney because the threat to law enforcement and the difficulty they have in ascertaining who is the "bad guy" in a violent scenario is made unnecessarily more dangerous if they are unable to compel the production of the concealed carry permit. Carrying guns in public is associated with higher levels of violence and if a law officer can't do their job we are all at risk. We all have a right to a reasonable level of safety in public that is not trumped by 2A rights. Requiring a person to work with law enforcement if they are going to enjoy the right to carry in public is a reasonable expectation.

I strongly support these bills and urge you to favorably vote these bills out of the Judiciary Committee.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Manning  
Westport, CT