

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

My name is Laura Marks and I am from West Hartford. I am a mom of 3 children and an avid supporter of gun sense legislation.

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*, and H.B. 7219, *An Act Concerning Ghost Guns*.

In my opinion, change and/or enforcement of our current gun laws is not a Second Amendment issue, but a human rights issue. The safety and well-being of me and my family is the most important thing to me. It seems as if common sense is lacking in our society when it comes to gun ownership and presumed gun rights. Furthermore, personal responsibility and accountability is lacking in society in general these days and applies to gun ownership as well. I became an advocate for sensible gun legislation on December 14, 2012 after the horrible massacre in Sandy Hook; I felt it was my personal responsibility as a mother and a citizen of Connecticut to do what I can to change the way we legislate gun ownership.

I am testifying in **support** the passage of H.B. 7218, *An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home* and H.B. 7223, *An Act Concerning the Storage of a Pistol or Revolver in a Motor Vehicle*. Securely stored firearms, whether they are loaded or unloaded, would prevent many of the tragic deaths associated with unintentional shooting deaths from guns like the death of Ethan Song. Had the gun, ammunition and key to the gun's trigger lock been stored separately, securely and responsibly, Ethan's death may have been prevented. The bottom line is that firearms are dangerous and should be securely stored whenever they are unattended, regardless of whether or not they are loaded. This is just common sense. If you want to own a gun, properly secure your firearms when you are not in control of them or be held accountable for the consequences of your negligence.

I am also testifying in **support** the passage of H.B. 7219, *An Act Concerning Ghost Guns*. Possession of unregistered, untraceable, undetectable firearms does not make us any safer and defies common sense. Individuals prohibited from possessing firearms can evade background checks by making guns at home. Further, untraceable guns made from 3d printers and kits flow into the black market to end up in the hands of criminals. CT must act on this legislation since there is no plan to regulate ghost guns or 3D printed guns at the federal level.

I strongly support H.B. 7218, H.B. 7219 and H.B. 7223 and urge you to favorably vote these bills out of the Judiciary Committee.

Sincerely,
Laura Marks
West Hartford, CT