

TO: Chairs Winfield and Stafstrom
Joint Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Kate Martin – West Hartford, CT
Connecticut Chapter – Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

RE: Support for H.B. 7219

DATE: March 11, 2019

Dear Chairs and distinguished members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Kate Martin and I am a West Hartford resident and mother of four young children. I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America in support of House Bill 7219, An Act Concerning Ghost Guns.

The reason I am here today as a Moms Demand Action volunteer, and not at work, and not at home with my four children, is because I am deeply concerned by the levels of gun violence in this country. And while I realize there is no one solution to the epidemic levels of gun violence we experience in the United States, regulating Ghost Guns and 3D printed guns is a common-sense step we can take to close a dangerous loophole that is undermining public safety.

We have already decided as a state to require a background check on every gun sale. Passing this law is essential to ensuring Connecticut's existing background check law applies to 3D printed guns and unfinished receivers, which can easily be turned into firearms but can be legally purchased under current law without a background check. Without this law, a dangerous person with the right tools can easily access everything they need to assemble an untraceable, unserialized gun at home. This bill makes sure that our laws are keeping up with the changes in technology that are occurring.

Guns that are unserialized and plastic 3D printed guns that can evade metal detectors, pose too great a risk to the safety of our communities for us to leave them unregulated. We already know that ghost guns have been used in mass shootings, in attacks on law enforcement and have been seized in criminal investigations, including here in Southington, Willimantic and Bridgeport, CT.

New Jersey has already acted and passed a law regulating ghost guns. Connecticut should be next. The laws that we enact as a state say something about the priorities of its citizens. Let us recall that less than one year ago, over 11,000 people stood right outside this building demanding common sense changes to our gun laws. Regulating ghost guns and 3D printed guns is one of those changes.

Connecticut has been a national leader on gun violence prevention and by passing this law regulating ghost guns we will continue our leadership in these efforts to keep our children and

citizens safer from gun violence. I urge you to pass H.B. 7219 and thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Martin
Hartford Local Group Leader
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America