

March 10, 2019

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary,

I am writing as a lifelong Connecticut resident, mother of two young children, 20- year first responder, and concerned citizen. In my 17 years as a paramedic, I have many times seen the damage that firearms wreak upon the human body. I've spent countless hours closely interacting with unnerved and agitated people and am keenly aware of the average human's inability to think clearly in a dangerous, adrenalin fueled situation. Being a first responder has become more and more unpredictable and higher risk due to the increased avenues of firearm availability and ease of carry. Being a parent has become more frightening at all times; especially any time one's child is at school, a friend's home, or a crowded place. America has become a nation of people who are wary and always looking over our shoulders for a gunman and a means of egress. By voting to advance and reject these bills, as listed, I believe we can have a positive impact on the safety of the citizens of- and visitors to- our state.

I strongly SUPPORT the following bills:

**HB 7218**; An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home

**HB 7219**; An Act Concerning Ghost Guns

**HB 7223**; An Act Concerning the Storage of a Pistol or Revolver in a Motor Vehicle

**SB 60**; An Act Concerning the Presentation of a Carry Permit

I strongly OPPOSE the following bills:

**SB 90**; An Act Concerning Authorizing Certain Persons to Carry Handguns in State Parks and State Forests

**HB 5870**; An Act Concerning Transfer of Assault Weapons and Large Capacity Magazines

**HB 5227**; An Act Concerning the Regulation of Firearms by Municipalities

Since the tragedy at Sandy Hook, CT has been a trail blazer state in regards to gun safety legislation. As such, we have seen significant decreases in firearms injuries and deaths in our state. Please take this opportunity to continue and build upon the successful groundwork that been laid in prior legislative sessions.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter and thank you for your commitment to gun violence prevention.

Sincerely,

Nicole Matthews

Amston, CT