

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

My name is Stacey Mayer, and I live in West Hartford, CT. I am a mother of 3, and a passionate supporter of common sense gun violence prevention 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*.

For years I have watched in horror as the epidemic of gun violence in this country has spiraled out of control. After becoming a parent, I became even more sensitive to the threat posed by gun violence. Listening to my children describe lockdown drills that they practice at school; watching news coverage of mass shootings that are so commonplace they barely register as news; witnessing the devastation of families destroyed by suicide or unintentional shootings – this cycle of violence needs to stop. Turning to our lawmakers to help pass common sense gun laws is the logical first step.

I support H.B. 7218, or Ethan's Law, because I believe that **all** guns, regardless of whether they are loaded, should be safely secured when there is a minor under 18 who might access that gun. In the US, eight children are unintentionally shot or killed by an unsecured gun every day. Households where both firearms and ammunition are securely locked have an 85% lower risk of these accidents. Additionally, studies show that child access prevention regulations like Ethan's Law can significantly reduce the number of adolescent suicides. Finally, gun thefts are a major source of guns on the illegal market, which are later used to commit crimes. Secured guns are less likely to be stolen, thereby reducing the number of weapons in illegal circulation used in crimes. Ethan's Law will reduce unintentional shootings, mitigate the risk of suicide (particularly among children), and help prevent crime-related gun violence.

I support H.B. 7219 because I believe that background checks and serial numbers are critical components of responsible gun ownership. By making guns at home and avoiding background checks, firearms can get into the hands of those prohibited from owning them, including felons, those with dangerous mental illnesses, and domestic violence offenders. Without a serial number, ghost guns used in a crime are impossible to trace; there are no manufacturer or sales records to check. A ghost gun ban will reduce these risks and keep our population safer. Additionally, with the increased availability of 3D printers, it will become even easier for people to manufacture untraceable and undetectable weapons. H.B. 7219 will protect all citizens in CT.

Finally, I support H.B. 7223 because if a gun is left unattended in a vehicle, it is common sense that the gun should be secured. Passing H.B. 7223 will help save lives by preventing gun thefts and other unauthorized access to handguns left in unattended cars. Research suggests that stolen guns are linked to crime; many guns found at crime scenes can be traced through the underground market. Stolen guns become untraceable and thwart the ability of law enforcement officers to solve violent crimes.

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

Sincerely,
Stacey Mayer
West Hartford, CT

