

March 11, 2019

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

We write to you in strong support of your Co-Chairs' introduction of a suite of bills pertaining to firearm safety to the Connecticut State Legislature:

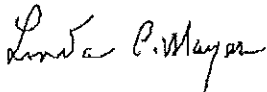
- **HB-7218: An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home**
- **HB-7223: An Act Concerning the Storage of a Pistol or Revolver in a Motor Vehicle**
- **HB-7219: An Act Concerning Ghost Guns**

As experts in child mental, behavioral, and physical health, we are confident that these bills will reduce gun violence in all its forms. By prioritizing the safe storage of firearms in homes and in vehicles, children will have reduced access to guns and will suffer from fewer accidental shootings and suicide attempts. Moreover, gun owners will receive a clear message that they must lock up their firearms or be held accountable. In addition, banning guns without serial numbers and regulating guns sold in forms requiring assembly after purchase, or that are homemade or 3-D printed, will prioritize the health and safety of children across our state.

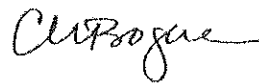
These bills are critical given the data on gun violence. One out of three homes with children have guns. Every day in the U.S., eight children are unintentionally shot or killed by an unsecured gun. This is simply unacceptable. Studies show that households where both firearms and ammunition are securely locked have an 85% lower risk of these preventable tragedies – and these bills would certainly help prevent them.

We are eager to see Connecticut lead the nation in passing measures to enhance the safety of children and families by tightening Connecticut's child access prevention law. Introducing and passing HB-7218, HB-7219, and HB-7223 is in the public health interest. We applaud your efforts in introducing this bill and will be glad to lend our support as the bill moves along the legislative process.

Sincerely,



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