

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

My name is Michele McBrien, I am from Beacon Falls. I am submitting my testimony today in support of;

S.B. 940 AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN PERSONS TO CARRY HANDGUNS IN STATE PARKS AND STATE FORESTS.

H.B. 5227 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF FIREARMS BY MUNICIPALITIES.

H.B. 5870 AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSFER OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES.

I'm opposed to;

S.B. No. 60 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESENTATION OF A CARRY PERMIT.

H.B. No. 7218 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS IN THE HOME.

H.B. No. 7219 AN ACT CONCERNING GHOST GUNS.

H.B. No. 7223 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STORAGE OF A PISTOL OR REVOLVER IN A MOTOR VEHICLE.

As stated above, I support several of these bills. I am especially in support of S.B. 940. My home borders the Naugatuck State Forest. My husband, daughter and I hike in the forest quite a bit. Watching from my back deck, we see many forms of wildlife. It is one of the perks of living where we live. I love nature. However, we have over the past few years seen many bobcats, coyote, and bear through the trees and even in our yard. It would definitely make me feel safer knowing that while we were hiking (sometimes with no cell service and over 30 minutes of response time) that my husband and I would be able to protect ourselves and more importantly our daughter, should any of these animals decide to attack. We have seen it happen over the recent years (the bear attack at Session Woods in Burlington being the most widely known about). I truly believe the animals have every right to live in the forest and be left alone, however, when we go hiking on state trails, I believe I should be able to defend myself and my family if necessary.

I oppose the bills stated above again for many reasons. First of all, show me the statistics where any of these bills if passed into law would make any of us truly safer? Every year I see what bills are being presented and every year, the one thing I NEVER see is educating people about firearm safety. I have been shooting since I was a child. I am an NRA Firearm Safety Instructor for both Pistol and Rifle disciplines. I was taught

as a child the importance of firearm safety and to be a responsible gun owner. When my daughter was old enough to comprehend the concept of firearm safety, I enrolled her in a Junior Rifle Club so that she too could understand the responsibility of firearms and firearm safety. I do not feel that any of these safe storage bills, i.e. H.B. No. 7218 and H.B. No 7223 will make anyone safer, instead it does more harm than good. I do not need anyone else to tell me how to be responsible in my home, and there are already laws on the books for safe storage in a vehicle. As for S.B. No 60 An Act Concerning the Presentation of a Carry Permit, we have already established this will cause profiling of many people. I truly believe it is also unnecessary. When was that last time a crime was committed by someone walking down the street or shopping with a firearm being openly displayed? Of all the research I have done, criminals hide their firearms or whatever weapon they choose, i.e., hammer, knife, etc. until they are in the act of committing said crime. Last time I checked, a crime is already against the law. Why is it that we must continue to make laws when it only effects law abiding citizens? I have never been arrested, passed both a state and federal background check when I applied for my pistol permit and go through a NICS check every time I purchase a gun. That right there proves I am a law-abiding citizen and should not be harassed just because I am carrying said firearm. As for H.B. 7219, there are so many issues with that bill that all I am going to say is I STRONGLY oppose it. I am sure you will hear testimony from many CT residents that have even more knowledge of the subject than I. I sincerely hope you listen to them. Firearms are not the problem, I have said it year after year. It is the person who intends to do the damage that is the issue. The firearm is just a tool. We need to educate people on firearms and not erode the rights of those who have the education and choose to utilize their 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights to protect themselves and their families. We need to actually utilize the laws currently in place to make people do the time they deserve when they choose to break the law not try to take away people's rights preemptively. I for one am fed up with having to justify my ability to utilize the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment and also shoot competitively. I work in the gun industry, again, I teach firearm safety and I shoot many disciplines both for fun and competitively. I am a law-abiding citizen, wife, mother and regular person. Please stop treating me like a criminal.

I urge you to favorably vote; S.B. 940, H.B. 5227, H.B. 5870 out of the Judiciary Committee and oppose; S.B. 60, H.B. 7218, H.B. 7219, H.B. 7223.

Sincerely,

Michele McBrien

Beacon Falls, CT