

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

My name is Katie McCarthy and I am from West Hartford. I am writing to enthusiastically express my support of H.B. 7219 *An Act Concerning Ghost Guns* and H.B. 7218 *An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home*.

I am a mom of three young children, a teacher in my town, and a gun violence prevention advocate. All three of these roles have taught me the value of caring beyond self. Like many people in Connecticut, I love my state. I grew up here and have chosen to raise my family here. Like many people in Connecticut, I also think that in order for a healthy democracy to thrive, its citizens need to question the institutions that fail to protect the safety and well-being of those it was intended to hold secure. In this case, laws on the books are either too weak (which "Ethan's Law" is attempting to ameliorate,) or there are loopholes that challenge the backbone of our laws (which the ban on ghost guns would resolve.) Below I list two reasons why these bills should be made into law:

1. As the mom of three and the teacher of high school students, I come into contact with young people often. It is not rare for children to act rashly and only reflect on why their decision was wrong later. There are opportunities for repairing mistakes when it comes to name calling, a thrown block, a plagiarized paper. There are NO opportunities for repair when it comes to an unintentional shooting by children. Please remove the opportunity for this danger to even present itself by passing H.B. 7218 *An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home*.
2. Loopholes are opportunities to exploit weaknesses in a law. They should only exist until they are pointed out. The danger with allowing a loophole to continue despite public hearings such as the one on March 11 is that when a death occurs because a ghost gun falls into the hands of a dangerous individual who never should have had access to that gun, the blame shifts. No longer is it only the gunman's fault; now the lawmakers are complicit. For that reason, I strongly support the passage of H.B. 7219 *An Act Concerning Ghost Guns*.

Again, I strongly urge you to favorably vote these bills out of the Judiciary Committee and I thank you for making our state a safer and healthier place to raise a family.

Kind Regards,
Kate McCarthy
West Hartford, CT