

To: JUDtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Subject: Testimony in support of HB-7218, HB-7223, HB-7219 and SB-60

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

My name is Peter Michael McCaughan and I live in New Milford CT for over 40 years. I am a Quaker, a religion recognized by the US government for its work for peace and conflict resolution.

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; **H.B. 7219**, An Act Concerning Ghost Guns; and **S.B. 60**, An Act Concerning the presentation of a Carry Permit.

As a Quaker, I believe that there is something of God in every person and thus believe that it is wrong to take another person's life or to settle arguments using force, especially potentially deadly force.

I support the two "Safe Storage" laws HB-7218, HB-7223, because I believe they will significantly reduce the number of guns stolen from the home or vehicles. Stolen guns are commonly used in crimes and since they are stolen, by definition they are creating a "bad guy with a gun." Police organizations and others support this bill as less stolen guns means a safer environment for citizens and for our first responders. I also support these two laws because they prevent ever-curious children from playing with guns in their homes or vehicles, thereby reducing accidental deaths.

I support HB-7219 because ghost guns and 3D printed guns are untraceable and unregistered. All guns should be registered, and all sales should have background checks. These two categories of weapons just circumvent the law and allow guns into the hands of people that potentially could not pass a background check.

I support SB-60 because anyone carrying a gun in public should be required to show they are licensed to do so. Just as a driver has to show his license and registration to a police officer, a person brandishing a gun in public should have to do so. Our first responders need to know if they are facing a criminal or not and I need to feel safe in public places in CT.

I strongly support H.B. 7218, H.B. 7223, H.B. 7219 and S.B. 60 and urge you to favorably vote these bills out of the Judiciary Committee.

Sincerely,

Peter Michael McCaughan

New Milford, CT