

3/11/19 9:48 AM

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

My name is Holly McGrath and I am from Simsbury. I am an educator, a mother of two young children and an active member in my community. 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*.

I have become an advocate for stronger gun safety regulations because I am saddened by the epidemic of gun violence that plagues our country. I care about the safety of my family, all of our CT communities, and especially our law enforcement officers who face great risk to ensure our safety.

I do not want to suffer the pain and grief caused by a child who accidentally kills another child, or a teenager who commits suicide because there was access to a firearm. These injuries and deaths can be prevented with stronger safe storage laws. Citizens choosing to own firearms must commit to the duty to secure all firearms, loaded or unloaded, when they are unattended.

Regarding ghost guns, there is no valid argument for anyone to possess unregistered, untraceable, undetectable firearms. Close the loophole.

I understand that open carry with a permit is legal. It does not make me feel safe because carrying guns in public is associated with higher levels of violence. I wish that I could attend public events and spaces knowing that they were gun free. It would be a consolation to know that all of the gun carriers were permitted, or at least open to showing their permit. Allowing law enforcement officers to request to see permits before dangerous behavior starts would improve their ability to ensure public safety.

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

Sincerely,

Holly McGrath

Simsbury, CT