

March 11, 2019

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

My name is Gina Morgan and I am from Simsbury. I am a mom of 3 young children and very concerned for my children's safety, on a daily basis, due to the gun violence epidemic in our country. Due to our legislators' and governmental leaders' failure to act, I have become a gun violence prevention advocate.

A family friend had 2 young children in Sandy Hook Elementary when a killer came into the school and caused a living nightmare. Luckily, both of her children survived and few days pass when I put my kids on the school bus and I don't think of her, her children and what could happen to my own. The worry is oppressive and something can be done about it.

When years and years pass with little to no legislation, I wonder, if legislators' children were victims of such an attack, how long would it take for them to take action? We NEED to make our community safer with strong, common sense gun violence prevention today! Why must innocent children, teens and adults die to protect the rights for people to purchase unlimited amounts of guns and most shockingly, weapons of war? It's unthinkable that people with dangerous histories, including felons, domestic abusers and people with dangerous mental illness can purchase guns.

I am not advocating that we remove the second amendment, however, I've always learned that one persons "right" ends when it infringes on another's right to LIVE. How many deaths have to happen by dangerous criminals who have legally purchased or made guns before you will act? How many children need to die or kill each other in unintentional shootings before you will act?

Therefore, I implore you to support:

- H.B. 7218 concerning the safe storage of firearms in the home. Reduce unintentional shootings!! Adults make mistake, children make even more. Take action to reduce these tragedies today!
- H.B. 7223 concerning the safe storage of firearms in vehicles. Why wouldn't we take this common sense step to reduce more unintentional shootings?
- H.B. 7219 concerning ghost guns. Guns are a MOST serious weapon, whether to protect our home, hunt or for sport. They NEED to be managed as such. When guns outnumber people in our country, they are serious concern.

I get up every morning and do the things I need to do to keep my children and family healthy, keep our home safe do my job to make our schools a better place for all of children. It's time for you to do your job today and support these bills and vote them

out of Judiciary Committee. The most important things in life take hard work, and clear, objective thinking. The right path is rarely the easiest path. If you don't support these bills, take a hard look at your beliefs and assumptions in life. Imagine for a minute, walking in someone else's shoes. It's very painful. Try to be honest with yourself about how you might feel if your child was a victim of senseless gun violence. Vote for your future family, if not for your family today.

Sincerely,

Gina Morgan
Simsbury, CT