



**Connecticut Conference  
United Church of Christ**

125 Sherman Street  
Hartford, CT 06105-2281

**Testimony in Support of H.B. 7218: An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the House  
and;  
Testimony in Support of H. B. 7223: An Act Concerning Safe Storage of Firearms in Vehicles  
and  
Testimony in Support of H.B. 7219 An Act Concerning Ghost Guns  
Submitted by, Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate,  
Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ, March 7, 2019**

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

I am Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate for the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ. I am writing on behalf of the 233 congregations and more than 67,000 people in our state's churches. In fact, the United Church of Christ (UCC) is the largest Protestant denomination in Connecticut. Nationally, the UCC has more than 5,700 congregations with nearly 1 million members. In 1993, the assembled delegates and ministers of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ met and voted on a Resolution for stricter gun control legislation.

I am in support of H.B.7219 An Act Concerning Ghost Guns, to ban guns without serial numbers and regulate those which are sold in a form requiring the purchaser to finish assembly or that are homemade or of 3-D printed. Guns should not be sold without background checks, without serial numbers and "Do it yourself" (DIY) kits, otherwise known as "ghost guns" must be regulated. Additionally, we support the right of local authorities to interview immediate family members as part of a determination of an applicant's suitability for a permit to carry a firearm in public.

Manufacturers have evaded state and federal gun laws by marketing DIY guns. These websites sell kits for making handguns, as well as AR-15s and AK-47s.<sup>1</sup>

Firearms made from these DIY kits are known as ghost guns because they contain no serial numbers, are untraceable and require no background check to purchase. Homemade assault weapons have been used in mass shootings and attacks on law enforcement around the country.<sup>2</sup>

Congress has no plans to ban or regulate ghost guns. According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, ghost guns are legal as long as they are intended for personal use and not sold or given to others because of their definition of what constitutes a "firearm".

There is no reason why anyone should possess an unregistered, untraceable firearm.

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<sup>1</sup> CT Against Gun Violence

<sup>2</sup> CT Against Gun Violence



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We also support H.B. 7218 and H. B. 7223 Acts regarding safe storage of firearms in the home and in vehicles. We support the safe storage of all firearms, whether loaded or unloaded, in a home with a minor under eighteen years of age and safe storage of a pistol or revolver in a motor vehicle.

Expanding safe storage requirements will help save lives from gun violence such as unintentional shootings, crime-related gun violence ( facilitated by stolen guns), suicide, school and other mass shootings. It sends a message to gun owners to lock your firearms when they are not in your immediate control or be held accountable.

It is estimated that from 2012 to 2015 more than 2,600 firearms were stolen in Connecticut.<sup>3</sup> Studies show that most gun thefts are from owners who leave them unsecured in unlocked homes and cars.<sup>4</sup>

All of God's children deserve opportunities to live and thrive in their communities. Making gun safety be a priority helps all of God's children to thrive.

Thank you for your work and the opportunity to supply written testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Blessings,  
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<sup>3</sup> Stolen Guns in America, Center for American Progress July 25, 2017

<sup>4</sup> Ibid



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