

March 10, 2019

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 D. Murchison and I live in Ridgefield 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 Co-Chairman of the Ministry and Oversight Committee of the Wilton Quaker Meeting,.

I have personally been touched by gun violence in CT. My nephew, Daniel Barden, was murdered in the Sandy Hook shootings 6 years ago. and I am writing to express my full support of the 4 subject bills. I truly believe each will contribute to the prevention of gun violence in our communities in Connecticut.

I support the 2 "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 2 laws because they prevent ever-curious children from playing with guns in their homes (or parents' cars), 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 2 categories of weapons just circumvent the law and allow guns into the hands of people that 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. If it makes sense for a driver to have to show his license and registration to a police officer, it is that much more sensible and important that a person brandishing a gun in public needs 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. 7219 and S.B. 60 and urge you to favorably vote these bills out of the Judiciary Committee.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Murchison

Ridgefield, CT