

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 Sherri Pranzo and I am from Guilford, CT. 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 am a gun violence prevention advocate for many reasons. First of all, I am a private tutor and have been working with high schoolers for over 25 years. Teenagers do not think like adults. They use their amygdalas more than their frontal cortexes to make decisions. In other words, they are ruled by raw emotion rather than logic. This is not just my opinion from years of experience, but also a proven fact from many neuropsychological research studies. Therefore, it is imperative to keep firearms and ammunition safely locked away from children and young adults. There are laws that don't allow teens to drive a car, vote, smoke or drink alcohol until they are 17, 18 and 21 respectively-forth this very reason. Passing H.B. 7218, H.B. 7219 and H.B. 7223 would prevent many needless deaths of our youth, who rely on adults to protect them, even if it's from themselves.

Second, teens and children are not the only ones who should be protected from access to guns and ammunition, but the mentally ill as well. Had these laws been in effect at the time, they could have prevented the senseless slaughter of Sandyhook. Had the mother of the shooter properly stored her guns and ammunition, she and 26 innocent victims would be alive today. Although my friends' daughters physically survived the shooting, the emotional scars remain to this day. When their mother dropped an ice cube tray on the floor, both girls dropped to the floor in fear. No child should be worried about getting shot at school, or anywhere else. How can children focus on learning when they are afraid for their lives?

Finally, let's make CT the safest state in the nation. Let's be a leader for every other state to follow, a place where people want to live without fear and worry of gun violence. It has to start somewhere, why not here? Each of these laws will contribute to the peace and well being of us all.

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

Thank you for considering my opinion in these matters.

Most sincerely,

Sherri Pranzo  
Guilford, CT