



Trinity College
HARTFORD CONNECTICUT

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

My name is Sarah Raskin, and I live in West Hartford Connecticut. I am a Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at Trinity College and I am on the Board of Directors of Connecticut Against Gun Violence. My work involves research to improve the lives of people with brain injury. I see everyday the interplay of guns and mental illness. I would like to submit testimony in favor of greater safety regulations for gun violence prevention.

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*.

It turns out that neuroscience has some important information to help with your deliberations. The part of the brain responsible for impulse control and sound decision making is the frontal lobes. The frontal lobes of the brain are not fully developed until around 25 years of age. Research with young children shows that no matter how many times you teach them to avoid guns, no matter how much training you give them, the allure of guns is just too strong. Studies demonstrate that even in kids whose parents swear they would never touch a gun--they do. And the first thing they do with it is point it at someone or look down the barrel.

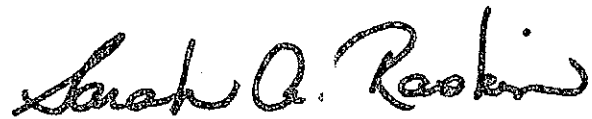
And keep in mind, even teens don't have good impulse control but do have fully formed amygdalas--the part of the brain responsible for emotion. Thus, they are often described as "all gas pedal and no break." This means in moments of emotion, they will act solely on impulse which leads to accidental shootings, impulsive shootings, and suicides that could have been prevented with more time.

In fact, we have an Attractive Nuisance Doctrine. I have always been confused as to why you can be held responsible if a child injures themselves because you left refrigerator or pile of wood where

a child could find it and get injured, how can the same not apply to a firearm?

Please help save the lives of Connecticut's children. I urge you to vote favorably vote bills H.B. 7218, H.B. 7219 and H.B. 7229 out of the Judiciary Committee.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah A. Raskin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah A. Raskin, Ph.D. ABBP/ABCN
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Trinity College

West Hartford resident