

TESTIMONY TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

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

My name is Barbara Richardson. I am from Sandy Hook. 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.

As a parent, friend and neighbor to many people impacted by the horrific shootings of 12/14/12, I feel strongly that government must commit to all reasonable regulation to prevent needless deaths and injuries from guns. The bills under present consideration would not negatively impact responsible gun owners.

Tragedies arising from careless gun storage are all too common, and cause trauma that lasts lifetimes. As a registered nurse, an unforgettable patient was a young man accidentally shot in the head by his younger brother who was playing with an unsecured gun belonging to their father. He eventually died after months of suffering, and the family was forever changed. The safe storage of guns is a responsibility that must be accepted by gun owners. Gun owners who don't appreciate this must know their potential legal as well as moral liability.

Allowing law enforcement officers to request presentation of a firearm permit is a public safety issue. Law enforcement can't do their job if they aren't allowed to see the permit that a legal gun owner must carry. As far as ghost guns, there is no valid argument for anyone to possess unregistered, untraceable, undetectable firearms.

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.

Sincerely,

Barbara Richardson

Sandy Hook, CT 06482