

March 10, 2019

Senator Winfield, Rep. Strafstrom, ranking members Kissel and Rebimbas, and distinguished members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary,

My name is Lauren Santos and I am from West Hartford. I am a concerned mom of 3 children and an avid supporter of gun sense legislation.

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*, and H.B. 7219, *An Act Concerning Ghost Guns*.

I am a gun violence prevention advocate because I am really tired of unintentional shootings, especially those done by children or to children. It is so important to me that guns stay out of the hands of people who have dangerous histories, such as domestic abusers or people who have a dangerous mental illness.

I support H.B. 7218 and H.B. 7223 because 1 in 8 children are unintentionally shot or killed by a gun every day. Many of those shootings could be prevented by securely storing firearms. Guns are stolen in the US every 2 minutes. Evidence suggests that most of these thefts are because guns are unsecured in an unlocked home or vehicle. Studies show that most guns recovered in crime scenes were stolen so requiring handguns to be secured will help curb the key source of crime guns. A stronger storage law will help reduce gun deaths from unintentional shootings, stolen guns used in crimes and in school and mass shootings. We need to send a clear message to gun owners; lock up your firearms when they're not in your control or you will be held accountable.

I am also in support of H.B. 7219, regulating ghost and 3D printed guns. Since these guns have no serial number, they are untraceable and require no background check to purchase. Individuals who are prohibited from possessing a firearm can make assault weapons and use them for mass shootings, attacks on law enforcement, and in domestic situations. There have already been incidents in CT with ghost guns. Since there are no plans on the federal level to ban or regulate ghost guns, Connecticut must act. They are a real threat to public safety.

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

Sincerely,
Lauren Santos
West Hartford, CT