

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

My name is Garrett Sullivan, and I am from East Haven. I am affiliated with Connecticut Against Gun Violence (CAGV). 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.

All of these bills are of concern to me due to recent events of gun violence in Connecticut and other states. In my view, stronger safe storage laws will help reduce gun death and injury from unintentional shootings, stolen guns used in crimes, teen suicide and school shootings. And ghost guns have no reason to be in the hands of citizens; I don't believe there to be a valid reason anyone should possess unregistered, untraceable, undetectable firearms. Lastly, I have a right to feel safe in public, and I don't when someone other than law enforcement is carrying a gun. Therefore, allowing police officers to see the permit of someone carrying a gun in public is a simple measure to protect public safety.

Personally, I find the claim that guns do not cause killing, and that individuals are the cause, to be deeply flawed. Other countries, such as Australia, have seen substantial improvement in rates of violence, after limiting citizen access to deadly firearms. Connecticut and the rest of the United States should follow such examples, to reduce the disproportionate rate of gun violence which occurs in this country.

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

Sincerely,

Garrett Sullivan
East Haven, CT