

Peterson, Bobbye

From: Holly Sanady <hollyasullivan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 7:24 AM
To: JudTestimony
Cc: zRepresentative Arthur ONeill; Sen. Berthel, Eric
Subject: Support for H.B. 5227; Opposition to H.B. 7218

Dear Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, and distinguished members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary,

My name is Holly Sullivan from Southbury. I am providing testimony in support of:

H.B. 5227 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF FIREARMS BY MUNICIPALITIES

I am a single mother in Southbury, raising my 5 year old daughter in my community. I have a masters degree, a good career, own my home and am a regular volunteer in civic activities. In 2017, I learned that there was a proposed ordinance in my town calling for the prohibition of lawful permit holders to be able to carry at all town events or in any town buildings. This would mean that I would have to go home and leave my firearm before being allowed to use the same privileges as other tax payers- I could not even bring my child inside the town library to use the restroom. I would have to choose between my right to self defense as a single woman and being allowed to take my daughter to our Memorial Day Parade along Main Street. This ordinance would also have resulted in me being disarmed when my daughter and I returned home alone after dark in our rural part of town.

One of the proponents of the ordinance stated in an article in the Waterbury Republican-American that “emotions often overtake rational thought” and therefore permitted gun owners shouldn’t be allowed to carry at town events or be in town buildings.

Like many women in my town, I do my grocery shopping, pay my car taxes and attended church alongside the proponents of that ordinance. Myself and hundreds of other women in my town who are legally permitted to conceal carry coexist peacefully among those who don’t every day. The notion that my emotions may overtake my rational thought is outright offensive.

There are many law abiding gun owners in my town. As a point of reference, Southbury police sergeant Van Ness advised in 2017 that there were 1,702 legal permit holders in Southbury. At the time there were only 1,440 elementary school students in the two elementary schools located within the town of Southbury. For every child in town, there were even more permit holders. We are a safe, respectful community.

Women like me are law abiding, non-threatening and contributing members of our community. We coexist peacefully without incident on a daily basis. Yet fear mongering in a small town resulted in absolute division and tension unlike anything I have seen in the years I have lived in this state. For months, nasty debates went back and forth in letters to the editor, at town hall meetings and neighbors argued. Almost 1,000 people packed our high school at public hearing. A normally peaceful community was torn apart.

I strongly urge this committee to support H.B. 5227 so that women like me who have been granted a permit by the State of Connecticut do not have to fight to keep our right locally because of the ludicrous notion that our emotions will overtake rational thought in a small town.

Additionally, I am oppose to;

H.B. No. 7218 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS IN THE HOME.

I am opposed to this bill without language providing for safety education for children. Had the Board of Education implemented such a program in 1990 when last addressed in Public Act 90-144, we may not be again debating this issue today. While my child is regularly exposed to discussion not to touch firearms and to alert an adult, many children in our state are not fortunate enough to have that foundation. The State has missed the opportunity for the past almost 30 years to prevent tragedy through education. We advocate for safety education for our children in other matters that have safety risks: driving, drug abuse. Do not push through another bill intended for children's safety without providing for necessary education. As written, this bill is simply not good enough.

S.B. No. 60 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESENTATION OF A CARRY PERMIT.

H.B. No 7219 AN ACT CONCERNING GHOST GUNS

H.B. No 7223 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STORAGE OF A PISTOL OR REVOLVER IN A MOTOR VEHICLE

I urge you to favorably vote; S.B. 940, H.B. 5227, H.B. 5870 out of the Judiciary Committee and oppose; S.B. 60, H.B. 7218, H.B. 7219, H.B. 7223.

Sincerely,

Holly Sullivan

Southbury