

March 10, 2019

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am testifying in support of H.B.7219, AN ACT CONCERNING GHOST GUNS. I support stringent regulation of all ghost guns, 3D printed plastic guns, and a ban on all guns without serial numbers.

I am a parent to two elementary-aged children in Stamford. I am deeply concerned that there has been a rise in popularity in Connecticut in the underground do-it-yourself gun market, where any person, including people known to be dangerous, or individuals on the terror watch list, or other ill-intentioned people, can have easy access to un-serialized guns by either creating their own deadly, untraceable weapons or by purchasing un-serialized weapons from an individual who makes them.

It seems to me and my family to be common sense to ban all guns without serial numbers, and to make sure that no neighbor should be conjuring up deadly weapons without any regulation in the privacy of their own basements.

Even my city of Stamford is considering creating a local ordinance [<https://www.stamfordadvocate.com/local/article/Stamford-bans-ghost-guns-13667276.php>] to ban homemade untraceable weapons, otherwise known as ghost guns, following in the footsteps of the already-passed ordinance in Bridgeport. My fellow Stamford residents and I, along with members of local gun violence civic action group The ENOUGH Campaign, plus CT Against Gun Violence, DOMUS leadership, and Moms Demand Action Stamford have been very vocal on the issue, having met with Captain Conklin of the Stamford Police Department to discuss our concerns. The Stamford Police Department supports our Board of Representatives' effort to regulate ghost guns. It has already been proven that Connecticut residents in multiple cities want dangerous ghost guns and firearms without serial numbers highly regulated or banned. However, it is out of the municipalities' jurisdiction to criminally prosecute those who might be found manufacturing deadly ghost guns. If H.B. 7219 were to become law, rightful criminal prosecution would be enforceable across the state. The State of Connecticut should hear our collective, concerned voices - residents, law enforcement, and community leaders - who seek to address the deadly scourge of ghost guns, and ban these deadly, unserialized weapons.

I strongly support H.B. 7219. My family and I are depending on you to favorably vote these bills out of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shira Tarantino
Stamford