

Testimony for Public Hearing  
Judiciary Committee  
March 11, 2019

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

My name is Kurt Weisheit and I reside in Terryville, CT. I am testifying today as follows.

**OPPOSE:** S.B. No. 60 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESENTATION OF A CARRY PERMIT  
The “reasonable suspicion” portion of the current law is essential because it is wholly consistent with the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and is supported by years of U.S. Supreme Court precedent. People who openly carry firearms are not criminals and should not be seized by police if they’re not suspected of a crime.

**OPPOSE:** H.B. No. 7218 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS IN THE HOME  
As a parent, I believe firearms should be stored responsibly, but this one-size-fits-all law wouldn’t be appropriate for everyone. Alternatively, I would like to see a much stronger focus on teaching children gun safety.

**OPPOSE:** H.B. No. 7223 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STORAGE OF A PISTOL OR REVOLVER IN A MOTOR VEHICLE  
I have serious concerns with this bill because it would turn victims of theft into felons, which is just plain wrong.

**OPPOSE:** H.B. No. 7219 AN ACT CONCERNING GHOST GUNS  
I have concerns that this bill contains broad language which could classify any type of raw material in any form as a “firearm.” Federal law already prohibits the transfer of non-serialized firearms to another individual. “Prohibited persons” are not allowed to manufacture or possess a homemade firearm just as they are not allowed to possess or purchase any other type of firearm, so this law only encumbers law-abiding, peaceable Citizens.

**SUPPORT:** S.B. No. 940 AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN PERSONS TO CARRY HANDGUNS IN STATE PARKS AND STATE FORESTS  
Most states do not prohibit the lawful carry of firearms for self protection in State Parks, including MA, VT, NH, ME, PA, and many others throughout the nation. CT resident and non-resident permit holders should be able to carry in State Parks for self-defense. Contrary to what some may say, allowing carry in State Parks will not endanger others enjoying the park. It hasn't been an issue in other surrounding states, so there's no reason to believe there would be issues in CT either. This change would not allow hunting in State Parks, nor would it allow the discharge of firearms for target practice. It would only rightfully allow individuals the ability to have proper means of self-defense, should the unfortunate need arise.

**SUPPORT:** H.B. No. 5227 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF FIREARMS BY MUNICIPALITIES  
There are over a quarter million gun owners traveling through multiple municipalities in this state daily. Prohibiting municipal regulation of firearms ensures uniform law, which Citizens can follow without confusion.

**SUPPORT:** H.B. No. 5870 AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSFER OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES  
This bill would not create additional quantities of so-called “assault weapons”, nor would it increase the number of people who own such items.

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. 7223, H.B. 7219.

Respectfully,

Kurt Weisheit