

My name is Scott Wilcox and I am writing here to testify my opposition and support for specific bills that have been put before the judiciary committee today.

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

I am strongly opposed to this bill. The simple act that someone may be openly carrying a firearm, which is 100% legal in this state, would open them up to a police officer questioning them and demanding papers. The fact that it says, parenthetically, that the questioning officer must have a reasonable suspicion of a crime is incredibly vague and wide open to interpretation. This bill is nothing more than legalized harassment of law-abiding citizens, as criminals DO NOT OPENLY CARRY FIREARMS! The vague wording of reasonable suspicion can even be applied unequally simply based on a person's appearance. This bill has been up for debate before and it was postulated that even based on race it could be unequally utilized. Openly carrying a firearm is not reasonable suspicion of a crime.

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

I strongly oppose this bill. This bill is 100% unenforceable and will prevent not one single thing. This bill is 100% punitive in its nature. As a friend of the Song family (the tragedy that is the impetus of this bill also known as Ethans Law) stated "Please pass this law so that gun owners can be held accountable if their actions are careless". It prevents nothing based on the fact that you cannot enforce it, unless you go door to door to inspect the firearms status of each gun owner's home. Which I do believe is a Constitutional violation of the 4th amendment. This law only comes into play AFTER something has happened.

H.B. No. 7219 AN ACT CONCERNING GHOST GUNS.

I strongly oppose this bill. It's legal for someone in the United States to manufacture their own firearms for their own personal use; they cannot sell them or give them away without obtaining a license first, a manufacturer's license. But you can make your own firearms. That's something that's been legal since the founding of the country. This precedent is even backed by the ATF and federal firearms laws. It is a federal crime to manufacture with the intent to sell or distribute firearms without a manufacturer's license. One of the impetus' for this bill was a gentleman who was making semi-automatic rifles and selling them. Violation of multiple laws already. According to Public Act 13-3, it is already illegal to assemble "assault weapons" in this state. Or possess "assault rifles" without a certificate of registration.

Thousands of people across this state have made their own firearms over the years. Including bolt action precision rifles. With the stroke of a pen, these people will now be felons.

Another issue is, fabricating your own firearm takes a lot of time, quite a bit of money and knowledge. It's more time-consuming and expensive to fabricate a firearm than it is to simply "acquire" one. This is an example of a solution looking for a problem.

Text from PA 13-3:

"[(4)] (F) A part or combination of parts designed or intended to convert a

firearm into an assault weapon, as defined in [subdivision (3) of this subsection] any provision of subparagraphs (B) to (E), inclusive, of this subdivision, or any combination of parts from which an assault weapon, as defined in [subdivision (3) of this subsection] any provision of subparagraphs (B) to (E), inclusive, of this subdivision, may be [rapidly] assembled if those parts are in the possession or under the control of the same person;[.]

Also, as I read the text of the bill a lot of it is all about serial numbers and firearm tracing in crimes. A criminal gets a hold of a firearm, the first thing they do is obliterate the serial number, which is illegal, and makes it so the firearm is untraceable anyway.

As far as 3-D printed guns. The plans for these firearms have been available for over 5 years. Since that time there have been exactly zero instances of a homicide perpetrated by a 3-D printed gun. This a solution looking fo a problem. Even when you print a 3-D gun, you still need to acquire the ammunition to fire it, which cannot be done in this state without a permit. Congratulations, you've spent a day printing a single use firearm, that you cannot use. And these 3-D printed guns are just that. Single use...if that. They take most of a day to print, and almost all of the entry level 3-D printers lack the printing of plastics with the tensile strength to even successfully fire a plastic gun.

#### H.B. No. 7223(RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE STORAGE OF A PISTOL OR REVOLVER IN A MOTOR VEHICLE. (JUD)

I strongly strongly strongly oppose this legislation. The nature of this bill turns me into a criminal by being the victim of a crime. So, government and some businesses create useless gun free ones, which, by law I have to comply and by doing so am forced to leave my firearm in the car. If someone breaks into my car, which is already a locked container, and steals said firearm, this now makes me a felon by the virtue of someone elses actions. This is an abomination.

The other problem with this bill is the wording is incredibly vague. It just says No person shall 1store or keep any pistol or revolver in any motor vehicle that is 2unattended unless such pistol or revolver isin a securely locked safe. So, what does that mean exactly? What kind of safe? That leaves open all kinds of interpretations. Unless said safe is bolted to the floor or frame of the vehicle....the "safe" can be removed regardless and even though it was in a locked safe, it is still stolen and I am still now a felon.

#### S.B. No. 940 AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN PERSONS TO CARRY HANDGUNS IN STATE PARKS AND STATE FORESTS.

I wholly support this bill. This really is a no brainer. CT has one of the strictest permitting processes in the nation. Plus we get background checked for each firearm purchase an upon permit renewals. There is absolutley no reason we are not permitted to carry our firearms in a state park or forrest.

It has been proven that firearm permit holders are among the most law abiding citizen. Even more so than police. If we leave our firearms in our car, someone might steal them and by virtue of HB 7223, we are a felon either way. With all these laws it would appear that CT really doesn't want us carrying our firearms at all.

H.B. No. 5227 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF FIREARMS BY MUNICIPALITIES.

I fully support this bill. It's hard enough being a gun owner trying to navigate the minefield of firearms laws from state to state without a law degree, having municipalities passing firearm ordinances makes that minefield even murkier. It's becoming near impossible to be a firearm owner without violating some law or regulation. But, I guess that's the point.

Probably fewer than 2% of handguns and well under 1% of all guns will ever be involved in a violent crime. Thus the problem of criminal gun violence is concentrated within a very small subset of gun owners, indicating that gun control aimed at the general populace faces a serious needle in the haystack problem.

As the founding fathers knew well, a government that does not trust its honest law-abiding citizens with the means of self defense is not itself worthy of trust. Laws disarming honest citizens proclaim that the government is the master, not the servant, of the people.

Thank you for your time