

My name is Donna Wnuck. I am a parent, a long-time CT resident, and an active voter. I currently reside in Bloomfield. I thank you for the opportunity to testify today in favor of the proposed gun safety legislation.

To be clear, I support 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*.

Like other supporters of these bills, I am part of a majority of citizens who recognize that gun violence is out of control. The NRA famously says, "Guns don't kill people; people kill people." But common sense tells us that people *with guns* – whether they're criminals, minors, or any number of other categories – *do kill* more often than people without guns. While I acknowledge the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment right to bear arms, I believe that guns must be kept out of the wrong hands. Since lawful gun owners have failed on their own to do this, legislation is required to help keep our communities safe.

HB 7218 & HB 7223 will make lawful gun owners more accountable for what happens with their weapons. Requiring that both loaded and unloaded firearms be securely stored will reduce gun death and injury from stolen guns used in crimes. It will also curb unintentional shootings, school shootings, and teen suicides.

SB 60 enables law enforcement to ensure that someone carrying a gun *actually is* a lawful, permitted owner. Current law requires officers to wait until "reasonable suspicion" before requesting proof of permit. Waiting until a crime is almost committed before discovering lawless carry makes no sense. I stand with the CT Police Chiefs Association, the CT Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, and the Chief State's Attorney in supporting this bill.

Finally, HB 7219 bans guns without serial numbers, and regulates "ghost guns" and 3D printed plastic guns in the same way that other firearms are regulated. I was appalled to learn about the practices employed by some gun manufacturers and gun rights proponents to get around our current laws. Unfortunately, the only way to protect us against this rising menace is to pass new legislation.

Gun safety is a shared responsibility. Citizens need to pay attention and speak out, legislators must pass laws to keep us safe, and gun owners must follow them. I'm here to do my part. I strongly support the House and Senate bills I've mentioned, and urge you to favorably vote these bills out of the Judiciary Committee.

Thank you,

Donna Wnuck  
Bloomfield, CT