



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM TONG

Chairman Stafstrom, Ranking Member Rebimbas, Chairman Winfield, Ranking Member Kissel and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to offer my very strong support for the following bills:

- SB 60, *An Act Concerning the Presentation of a Carry Permit*
- HB 7218, *An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home*
- HB 7219, *An Act Concerning Ghost Guns*
- HB 7223, *An Act Concerning the Storage of a Pistol or Revolver in a Motor Vehicle*

I offer testimony on these bills today not just as Attorney General of the State of Connecticut, but as a father of three children, ages 7, 10 and 13. Like Kristin and Mike Song, I wake up every day focused on the well-being and safety of my children. The Songs suffered an unfathomable tragedy one year ago when they lost their son, Ethan, who was killed by a gun while visiting a friend's house. I had been in office for exactly one week when Kristin came to speak with me about what would become HB 7218, *An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home*, also known as Ethan's Law. This bill would place into law simple storage measures that would make households safer from tragedies like Ethan's. Similarly, HB 7223, *An Act Concerning the Storage of a Pistol or Revolver in a Motor Vehicle*, provides common sense regulations around storage in a motor vehicle.

House Bill 7219, *An Act Concerning Ghost Guns*, outlaws unlicensed weapons bought online and assembled upon receipt and 3-D printed guns, and is the continuation of an effort that Chairman Stafstrom and we as a Committee spearheaded last year. The sale of ghost guns and the sale or distribution of plans for 3-D printed guns is an extremely troubling, and frankly scary, development. It further undermines state laws that are designed to keep guns away from individuals who should not have access to them. Indeed, the only logical reason for individuals to acquire a ghost gun or 3-D printed gun is to avoid state laws and regulations.

Senate Bill 60, *An Act Concerning the Presentation of a Carry Permit*, would require individuals with a carry permit to physically carry that permit on their person and to present it to a law enforcement officer, if requested to do so. In instances where law enforcement responds to an individual with a gun, there is a heightened sense of alarm and urgency. Current law only allows for law enforcement officers to request a gun owner's permit if they have "reasonable suspicion" that a crime is being committed. We have been debating this issue for some time, and

I cannot understand why someone who is openly carrying a firearm should not be required to show their permit to a law enforcement officer when asked to do so. Law enforcement officers are responsible for enforcing our gun laws and making sure that only those who can lawfully carry a firearm do so; how can we expect them to discharge this duty if they cannot request a person openly carrying a firearm to show a permit. This is yet another common sense measure that would make both our communities and our law enforcement officers safer.

As a member and then Chair of this Committee, it was my honor to help lead the passage of laws that have enabled Connecticut to have some of the lowest rates of gun violence in the nation, despite our horrific tragedy at Sandy Hook. This work included the reforms after Sandy Hook and Lori Jackson's Law, a measure which took guns out of the hands of domestic abusers and was named for Ms. Jackson, another victim of senseless gun violence.

Through the courageous activism of families and individuals like the Jacksons and the Songs, teens who have experienced gun violence first hand, and parents mobilizing in cities and suburbs alike, we are finally starting to see progress on gun safety legislation. I have also heard directly from law enforcement officers in my home city of Stamford, who have urged the state to take action on ghost guns and 3-D guns. Cities like Stamford and Bridgeport are stepping up to do what they can, but they need the state to partner with them. Their advocacy underscores the need to focus on gun violence in our cities and the urban core of our state, and how the scourge of gun violence affects these communities every day.

In closing, Senate Bill 60 and House Bills 7218, 7219 and 7223 are all common sense measures that any responsible gun owner can understand and follow. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony, and I urge you to support these bills, which provide further safety and security for our communities.