



**Connecticut Conference
United Church of Christ**

125 Sherman Street
Hartford, CT 06105-2281

**Testimony in Support of H.B. 5540: An Act Concerning Ghost Guns and the Permit Application Process and;
Testimony in Support of H. B. 5542: An Act Concerning Bump Stocks and Other Means of Enhancing the Rate of Fire of a Firearm
Submitted by, Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate,
Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ, March 21, 2018**

Representative Tong, Senator Kissel, Senator Doyle, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate for the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ.

I am writing today in support of H.B. 5540 and in support of H.B. 5542.

I am writing on behalf of the 237 congregations and more than 67,500 people in our state's churches. In fact, the United Church of Christ (UCC) is the largest Protestant denomination in Connecticut. Nationally, the UCC has more than 5,700 congregations with nearly 1 million members. In 1993, the assembled delegates and ministers of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ met and voted on a Resolution for stricter gun control legislation.

I am in support of H.B. 5540 An Act Concerning Ghost Guns and the Permit Application Process, to ban guns without serial numbers and regulate those which are sold in a form requiring the purchaser to finish assembly or that are homemade and to permit local authorities to interview immediate family members as part of a determination of an applicant's suitability. Guns should not be sold without background checks, without serial numbers and "Do it yourself" (DIY) kits, otherwise known as "ghost guns" must be regulated. Additionally, we support the right of local authorities to interview immediate family members as part of a determination of an applicant's suitability for a permit to carry a firearm in public.

Manufacturers have evaded state and federal gun laws by marketing DIY guns. These websites sell kits for making handguns, as well as AR-15s and AK-47s.¹

Firearms made from these DIY kits are known as ghost guns because they contain no serial numbers, are untraceable and require no background check to purchase. Homemade assault weapons have been used in mass shootings and attacks on law enforcement around the country.²

Congress has no plans to ban or regulate ghost guns. According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, ghost guns are legal as long as they are intended for personal use and not sold or given to others because of their definition of what constitutes a "firearm". Connecticut's current definition of "firearm" fails to prohibit such weapons. H.B. 5540 supplements the definition of "firearm" to include such guns, thus fixing the federal and state loophole.³

¹ CT Against Gun Violence

² CT Against Gun Violence

³ CT Against Gun Violence



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There is no reason why anyone should possess an unregistered, untraceable firearm.

We also support H.B. 5542 : An Act Concerning Bump Stocks and Other Means of Enhancing the Rate of Fire of a Firearm to ban the sale or transfer, possession, manufacturing or use of bump stocks or other accessories. Bump stocks allow weapons to operate like machine guns. The Las Vegas shooter used bump stocks to fire more than 1,100 rounds in just 10 minutes, killing 58 and injuring more than 500 concertgoers. Four states now ban Bump Stocks: California, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Washington. Connecticut should be added to this list.

All of God's children deserve opportunities to live and thrive in their communities. Making gun safety be a priority helps all of God's children to thrive.

Thank you for your work and the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of H.B. 5540 and H.B. 5542 and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Blessings,
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CT Against Gun Violence



God is still speaking,

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