

Select Committee on Children  
Hartford Connecticut

March 1 2012

Members of the Committee,

I would like to urge you to **OPPOSE HB 5220 AN ACT CONCERNING LOOK-A-LIKE FIREARMS.**

This bill would do very little to protect the public or prevent accidents.

Many property owners abut schools in our state, and this bill could put them in jeopardy for no reason.

In fact, what it would do is make persons who legally possess such items into criminals if their property abuts a school within the stipulated 1500 feet, or if they should legally be walking or driving past a school with such item. The items listed; BB guns, pellet guns etc, are NOT illegal to possess on their own.

Making these items illegal to possess near a school only creates the illusion of safety—when in reality this legislation effectively prohibits people in their own homes nearby from having them.

Section (a) of this bill reads as follows: *As used in this section, "look-a-like firearm" means any imitation firearm, simulated firearm, replica of a firearm or other device which substantially duplicates or is so similar in coloration and overall appearance to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to perceive that the device is a firearm.*

It should be noted that many currently manufactured "real" firearms, now come in many colors and materials—so enacting legislation based solely on what a firearm or toy firearm may look like is misleading and inaccurate. There are pistols now sold in the color pink and rifles that come in orange or blue.

I feel the last section of this bill speaks volumes about its inadequacy and ineffectiveness: it exempts the military and police departments from having paintball guns or BB guns on school grounds while exercising their official duties. With all due respect, I would hope that our military and police departments are not issuing paintball and BB guns to personnel who are on duty.....

It is laudable that the committee takes public safety seriously and an attempt is being made to protect the public. However, this legislation really only creates an unworkable situation for people who live near schools, and sets a false expectation about what firearms should look like. Again, I would respectfully request that the committee does not move forward with this legislation.

Amy Stegall  
Stafford Connecticut