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**ASSISTANT SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**CHAIRMAN** – HOUSING COMMITTEE

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**MEMBER** – JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

**MEMBER** – PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

## **Senator Tony Hwang Response Re: Gun Bill Votes in Judiciary Committee**

Thank you for your passionate advocacy on the important issue of gun control. I am with you in the fight against gun violence. **I also feel it is necessary to address the emotional response and politicization of my Judiciary Committee legislative votes and to advocate for the necessary debate that delicately balances community gun violence protection with the respect for law abiding gun ownership rights.**

Connecticut has been a leader in common sense gun reform and I have always been an ardent supporter of legislation that keeps our communities safe. I recently co-sponsored House Bills 5540 and 5542 that would ban the sale of "ghost guns" and bump stocks/rate-of-fire enhancements, and I will be working hard and voting to pass these measures into law when they come to the floor of the Senate. I strongly believe that military-style assault weapons have absolutely no place on our streets. I am proud that our state has some of the most comprehensive gun laws and some of the most passionate leaders on this issue in the country. I am equally proud to be a part of that movement with a strong record of support in voting for that legislation.

I want to share with you in my words why I voted in favor of HB 5538 and HB 5539. I also want to state that I will listen to the concerns of my community and carefully re-evaluate my vote in the Senate chamber.

**I voted in favor of HB 5538 and HB 5539 in the Judiciary Committee for the purpose of future dialogue on the critical balance between protecting the rights of reasonable, law-abiding gun owners and halting the proliferation of gun violence in our society.**

Connecticut has some of the most rigorous processes in the country when it comes to firearms permits. Connecticut citizens who have gone through these rigorous qualification processes to be issued a concealed carry permit can carry a handgun, with the responsibility of respecting the law, walking down Main Street, and in many other public places. My vote on HB 5539 reflected a need for ideas to be heard and exchanged as to how this 2nd amendment legal right should also be protected when visiting publicly owned State Parks.

My vote on HB 5538 was similar in nature, in that it reflected the need for greater debate and discussion with the entire General Assembly. All members of the Assembly, and through them all Connecticut residents, deserve to have their voices heard on these

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issues. I did not think it fair to keep my fellow legislators from having this important discussion. Furthermore, there should be no concern that criminals who previously qualified for an ammunition permit would continue to have access to ammunition after being convicted of a crime if this bill were to pass. The conviction of certain crimes automatically voids an ammunition permit, so passage of this bill would not allow felons to have continued and unlimited access to ammunition.

**Again, I want to repeat that I hear you loud and clear and I truly welcome your feedback. I promise to work together with you toward ending gun violence. Ultimately, I will respect my community's wishes and reserve the right to change my vote in the Senate chambers.**

Please stay vocal and active on these important issues. I continue to stand with you in the fight against gun violence, and I always welcome your feedback.

Your input matters, your ideas matter, and I am listening.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Hwang".

Tony Hwang  
State Senator, 28<sup>th</sup> District