

**Laura Bachman  
77 Sabina Drive  
Southington, CT 06489**

**Testimony in support of HB 6901, SB 903, SB 904**

Good afternoon Senator McDonald , Representative Lawlor, and members of the committee. My name is Laura Bachman, I'm from Middletown. Last September my 19 year-old brother was murdered with an illegal gun. I want to thank Representative Lawlor and Senator McDonald for hearing testimony on bills that will put a stop to illegal gun trafficking. I think it is vital that the legislature pass a bill requiring the reporting of lost and stolen firearms.

My brother Eric Bachman had just gotten his first apartment in Waterbury this past July. My brother wasn't perfect and had gotten in trouble with the law before on a few minor charges, but he had just gotten a promotion at Whole Foods where he worked and was starting to turn things around. He had been helping his 16-year old friend Alex Cruz out by letting him live there for free until one day my brother found Alex smoking crack with known prostitutes in his apartment. My brother kicked him out and when Alex wouldn't leave my brother punched him in the face to make him leave. My brother was very against hard drugs like crack and was outraged that Alex would use it in his apartment. Alex came back to my brother's apartment on September 27<sup>th</sup> with two of his friends, Michael Chandler, 20 years-old, and Kenneth Echavarria, 17 years-old. Michael and Kenny each came with a gun, illegally owned. They came there with the intention to rob my brother for four guns he also illegally owned, some money, and a small amount of marijuana. When they got there Kenny fired a warning shot and they forced my brother to lie down on the ground with a gun to his head. My brother cooperated and told them

**(OVER)**

where the guns, money, and marijuana were. They found it and took it, until Alex remembered how my brother punched him in the face two weeks before, he called it disrespecting him. Alex became overcome with rage and asked the other two for one of the guns they had, when they refused Alex took one from my brother's book bag and shot him in the head execution style. My brother wasn't found until four days later by my father and my brother's best friend. The guns they used were transferred to many different people and arrests are now being made for four of the people who transferred these guns. They have only found an exact match to one possibly two of the guns used that day, but not the one used to kill my brother. These guns were illegally owned and I want to know who sold guns to these young people? Kenny had just been released from prison due to a stabbing charge, how did he get a gun? Why was it so easy to transfer and sell the guns?

My brother was killed in part because it is too easy for prohibited users to get guns in Connecticut. I urge the committee to support requiring the reporting of lost and stolen firearms. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak in front of the committee.