March 10, 2019

Dear Senator Gary Winfield, Representative Steve Stafstrom, and Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Our names are Janet and Paul Bryant, and we live in Glastonbury, Connecticut. Please support HB 7218: An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home.

When our child was growing up, all the hunting guns in our home were kept locked securely in a gun safe. We'll never forget the day, however, when we were talking with the mother of one of our child's friends and she told us she kept their hunting guns under the bed, and she wasn't sure if they were loaded or not. Or the day when our child came home from a playdate and told us her friend had gotten a BB gun down from the top shelf of a closet and pointed it at her face. We learned to always check with parents before any playdate or sleepover to ensure that their guns were stored safely.

Safe storage of guns in the home doesn't just protect children under 18. An unsecured gun can more easily be stolen from a home and used to commit a crime, perhaps against the homeowner. Having guns locked up in a home can make it harder for adults living there to commit suicide or shoot another resident in a domestic violence incident. Safe gun storage protects all of us.

Thank you for listening to our testimony, and please vote yes on HB 7218.

Best regards,

Janet and Paul Bryant
Glastonbury, Connecticut