Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, ranking members Kissel and Rebimbas and distinguished members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary:

My name is Alyson Cahill and I am from Norwalk, CT. As a mother of two, an educator, and gun violence advocate, I am a very fervent supporter of gun sense legislation. I am testifying specifically in support of H.B. 7218, An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home.

The safe storage of firearms would not only drastically reduce the instances of unintentional shootings within the home - which have devastating consequences - but it would also allow so-called responsible gun owners to own up to the description of "responsible." I am a responsible driver - I put my children in car seats because the law tells me to, and because it keeps them safe. I am a responsible teacher - I know exactly where the exits are in my classroom in case of an emergency. I am a responsible homeowner - my property is always well-kept and safe. I am a responsible pet owner - I go to City Hall every year to show my dog's rabies certificate so I can get her a license. I am a responsible voter - I research candidates whose views align closely with my own and I make an educated decision on Election Day. I do all of these things because I feel that being "responsible" is part of being an functioning member of society. I take pride in the fact that I am trustworthy and accountable for my actions.

I don't own a gun, but if I did, I would also take great pride in being a "responsible gun owner." This means keeping my firearm locked, unloaded, with the ammunition stored separately and out of the reach of anyone who should not have access to it, including children. This is about as "common sense" as one can get when it comes to safe firearm storage. I ask those in attendance to consider what it means to them to be "responsible," but most importantly I urge gun owners to consider the ramifications of an unsecured gun and what the outcomes of such can be.

Finally, I urge you to favorably vote HB 7218 out of the Judiciary Committee, as I strongly support it.

Sincerely,

Alyson Cahill
Norwalk, CT