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

My name is Nancy Ellman, I am from Guilford. I am a member of Connecticut Shoreline Indivisible.


Deaths due to gun negligence devastate entire communities. My town of Guilford was rocked last year by the death of Ethan Song, a young man with so much in his life to look forward to. The revelation that the gun used was considered to have been stored legally, merely because the ammunition was only quite near the weapon rather than loaded inside it was baffling, since it made negligible difference to how easily the gun could be used.

Children, even older teens, are impulsive and can perform amazingly reckless actions. Increasing the age covered by the safe storage laws, expanding it to cover motor vehicles, and including unloaded guns are a necessary part of our duty to safely guide our youth to adulthood.

In addition, as a person with chronic depression, I am acutely aware of how one can desire, even briefly, for everything to just STOP, if only there were at hand an easy, immediate way to make that happen. In situations like that, even the smallest delay in getting a loaded gun saves lives, as it can be enough for an impulse to pass or stall until better actions are possible.

I strongly support H.B. 7218, H.B. 7219 and S.B. 60 and urge you to favorably vote these bills out of the Judiciary Committee.

Sincerely,

Nancy Ellman

Guilford, CT