Distinguished Chair and Members of the Judiciary Committee

My name is Brendan Malone and I am writing today in hopes you will join me in opposition of HB 7218 an act concerning the safe storage of firearms in the home.

According to a US Department of Justice report posted by Nationsearch.com, there were on average 1,030,000 home invasions per year from 1994 to 2010. Also, 38% of all assaults, and 60% of all rapes occur during a home invasion. I would never support a bill which would impede a law abiding citizens ability to defend themselves and their families.

In the case of the Guilford teen who shot himself last year, nothing in this bill would have changed the outcome of that. While I and the rest of us are unclear on their motivations to access a firearm in secret, I believe there were other steps that should have been taken in these young men’s lives to stop something like this from occurring. First off, where were the parents? The States Attorney said the boys had been gaining access to the firearm for months prior to the incident. At no time did the adults in the home think to check on what they were doing? Secondly, why hasn’t the state implemented the curriculum in schools it was supposed to for children’s gun violence prevention? If Eddie Eagle had told these kids “Stop! Don’t touch. Run away. Tell a grown-up.”, we might not have seen this tragedy even take place. Thirdly, the second juvenile was charged with second degree manslaughter, and no details can be found on anything related to this case. The same juvenile was charged with first degree reckless endangerment in an incident prior to Ethan Song’s death. Why, if we are considering passing legislation based on one incident, are the complete facts not being presented to the public?

The people of this state need to take a proactive approach to gun safety when it involves children. When our kids are little we teach them not to touch a hot stove, or to blow on your food so it doesn’t burn your tongue. Simple lessons when kids are young become muscle memory when we grow up. We do them without even thinking. If we applied the same learning to firearms, think of how many lives could have been, or could still be saved.

Thank you for your time and once again, please oppose HB 7218.

Brendan Malone

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