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

My name is Scott Markovich; I am from Guilford, CT. I am testifying today in support of H.B. No. 7218 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS IN THE HOME.

Ethan Song was my oldest son’s best friend. On the day Ethan died, my son was supposed to be with him but instead changed his mind to come home to watch a movie that he had ordered from Amazon. He remembered before boarding the bus that his movie was coming and that change of mind may have saved his life.

It could have been my son. I have wrestled with these emotions since the day Ethan passed. It could have been my son.

What I do know for sure is that it should NOT have been Ethan.

As this bill has been introduced, I have seen all of the ugliness of people emerge. Blaming the parents for not teaching gun safety, blaming Ethan for “not knowing better” and claiming that people need access to a loaded gun if an intruder comes in to their homes. The rhetoric runs the gamut of claims and falsehoods.

First, Ethan was 15. He couldn’t drive, couldn’t vote and couldn’t enroll in the military if he wanted to. He was a child. Our job as adults is to protect our children. Period. Leaving a gun with the bullets and the trigger locks in a Tupperware container in a cardboard box in a drawer is not proper gun storage. Had the guns been secured the way they should have been secured, this would not have happened. I don’t see how anyone can argue to the contrary.

Next, many gun safes today can be opened in less than 3 seconds. I have watched many videos and have read many articles that support this claim. There are also biometric locks that allow access even faster. The argument that “we will lose time if someone illegally enters our home” is a cop out argument. A 2nd amendment crutch argument. No one wants to take your guns away, just keep them secured in the right way. Again, no one wants to take your guns away!

Finally, back to my son. It could have been him. I don’t think I will ever have a day in my life where I don’t think about that. It could have been him.

Ethan still lives on in my son in so many ways and my son misses him dearly. They truly were kindred spirits, soul mates. His voice, laughter and personality lit up our home every time he was here and he was here often. His death was completely avoidable. It should not have
happened. But nonetheless, here we are, and Ethan is gone. It is time to take action so that no other family will have to go through what the Song family is experiencing. It is irresponsible not to do something. A one word change to this current law could save someone’s life.

I implore you to favorably vote, H.B. 7218 out of the Judiciary Committee.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Scott Markovich
Guilford, CT