March 9, 2019

Members of the Connecticut State Legislature
RE: Support for Bill HB-7218

My name is Anahi Odell and I'm writing this statement in support of Bill HB-7218. When my family and I chose to settle in Guilford we did so for multiple reasons, we loved the coastal small town feel, the people in Guilford seemed to value education and family life and we thought it was safe. We have two young children and we wanted to make sure we settled somewhere where we could raise our children in a safe community. Many other families in Guilford have chosen this town for similar reasons and I'm sure the Song family thought they would be able to attend the high school graduation of all of their children. Unfortunately, they won't. Their youngest son was taken from them thanks to a combination of teenage curiosity and irresponsible gun storage. As a mother myself I understand children can be curious, however the adults who owned the firearm that caused Ethan Song's death were negligent in their responsibility to protect their children and any unsupervised visitors in their home.

The bill proposed will help promote safe gun storage. Safety around firearms, just like seat belts in a car, needs to occur to avoid further tragedies in our neighborhoods. I'm asking you to support this bill so no other parent looses their child due to unrestricted access to firearms.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.