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

My name is Todd Szoka, I live in Colchester.

I am testifying in support of H.B. 7218, An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home.

Prior to Sandy Hook, I did not give much thought to the issue of gun violence. I was never a gun person and just didn’t give much thought to them. Sandy Hook changed all of that, and now as the father of 2 young children, one of which is about to enter the public-school system I am writing to you, in the hope that you will help pass legislation to ensure that an incident the likes of Sandy Hook will never happen again. I spent 7 years working as a paramedic in New Haven 2010-2017, and have seen firsthand the devastating effects of gunshot wounds.

I am asking that you please support H.B.7218

- A stronger safe storage law will help reduce gun death and injury from unintentional shootings, stolen guns used in crimes, teen suicide and school shootings.
- As the death of teenage Ethan Song proves, an unloaded gun can be just as dangerous as one that is loaded. Firearms are dangerous and should be securely stored whenever they are unattended, whether or not they are loaded.
- We need to send a clear message to irresponsible gun owners: lock up your firearms when they’re not in your control or be held accountable.
- In more than 80% of teen suicides, the gun used belonged to a family member. Keeping guns securely stored will save children’s lives.

I strongly support H.B. 7218.

Sincerely,

Todd Szoka

Colchester CT