

March 11, 2019

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

**I am a resident of Greenwich and I am writing in support of HB-7218, HB-7223, HB-7219 and SB-60.**

I urge you to close the gaping loophole in our laws that led to the tragic and heartbreakingly avoidable death of Ethan Song by supporting **HB 7218**. It is simple; safe storage laws work and save lives, and they do not infringe on the rights of individuals to own a firearm. Studies have repeatedly shown that safe storage results in a reduction in the rates of self-inflicted and unintentional firearm injuries among children and teenagers by up to 85% (Grossman DC, Mueller BA, Riedy C, et al. Gun storage practices and risk of youth suicide and unintentional injuries. JAMA. 2005; 293(6): 707-714.). It is absurd that, under current laws, an unloaded firearm in an unlocked box with ammunition next to it is considered safely stored by the state of Connecticut. Kids are curious and are developmentally prone to be risk-takers. As adults, we should be responsible for preventing unsupervised access to deadly weapons. Similarly, there is no reason why a firearm in a car should not be subject to the same safe storage laws. Therefore, I encourage you to also advance **HB 7223**.

I further ask that you support **HB 7219**. This law is essential to maintaining Connecticut's current regulatory laws concerning firearms. Background checks have been proven to keep guns out of the hands of violent individuals and allowing anyone to circumvent the background system by buying guns in parts or using a 3D printer is dangerous and irresponsible. Without this law, a dangerous person can easily access everything they need to assemble a gun at home. Your support of HB 7219 will save lives.

Please support common sense gun legislation and do your part to make HB-7218, HB-7223, HB-7219 and SB-60 law.

Respectfully,  
Emily Bierman  
Greenwich, CT