

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

My name is Kevin Daniel Cargos, I am from Guilford, CT. I am a graduate of Guilford High School, student at Providence College, friend of the Song family, and advocate for firearm Safety.

I am testifying in **support** of H.B. 7218, *An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home*, H.B. 7223 *An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in Vehicles*, H.B. 7219, *An Act Concerning Ghost Guns* and S.B. 60 *An Act Concerning the Presentation of a Carry Permit*.

I am a gun violence prevention advocate because I am good friends with the Song family, and I am well aware of the implications of this serious issue. I have been through an excruciating amount of pain and suffering as a result of Ethan Song's death, in fact I was at the hospital the night he died. I have never felt more compassion for a family – a strong and impactful one at that. I want everyone to know that Ethan Song's death was not in vein, but it was his fate – making the world a safer and better place for ALL future children.

Testimony Regarding All Aforementioned Bills:

Shortly after Ethan Song's death the Song family chose me to speak at a candlelight vigil on our town green. This was my speech:

“Freshmen year I was approached by Evan Song at lunch, to ask me the question I would come to dread for two years of my high school career... “will you run winter track with me?” I liked to run.... or at least I thought I did, so I said yes. It's silly to think that something as mundane as track could bring me so close to a friend and a family, but that's exactly what it did. The Songs are like a family to me, and an example of a family that we should all strive to be like. They are kind, and outgoing, and party hard at their annual guac and rock, so it only makes sense that they raised Ethan with these same principals. Ethan was undoubtedly the smartest freshmen I knew. Usually I didn't understand his political jokes, or witty comebacks, but as long as I pretended that I did it was all in good fun. My fondest memories of Ethan at home were of us playing a game called Pokémon-Go. I can remember going on numerous trips to Ashley's for ice cream with Evan, Ethan, and Emily, and stopping at the green along the way to play. Ethan knew every Pokémon, their names, their battle strategies, and their most evolved forms. It was truly something special to see Ethan passionate about something, which he often was. Since then, I have gone to block island with the Song family twice. The Songs and I love to play a game called munchkin, especially when we go to the block. Ethan was a fantasy loving, strategic mastermind, so this game was right up his alley. He was a stud at the game like his brother, and they rarely lost. However, after hours of playing one day at the block I decided enough was enough. It was the day that I was going rein victorious. Unsurprisingly Ethan outsmarted me, found a minuscule loophole in my defense, and beat me on his next turn. This was Ethan Song. He was quick to notice errors, and never ceased to outsmart his opponent in games of strategy. But this was only the beginning of his competitive nature. We also played Spike-Ball together in block island. One of the things we liked to do was videotape our games until we did something really cool, in hopes that we could share it with our friends, or I don't know, get famous. I

distinctly remember the look on his face when he was actually able to win a point vs his older brother. Nothing made Ethan smile like beating Ev. Ethan's competitive spirit was noble, and contagious. Ethan Song embodied the best parts of life, he was adventurous, and smart, and kind of a dork, but always knew how to light up a room with his personality. It is my hope that Ethan will be remembered for these things, but I've mentioned only a tiny fragment of what made Ethan so loved by everybody. I hope Ethan is smiling down on us right now plotting his next move, because someday I hope we get to play together again."

I support these bills so that no one has to stand in front of their communities and give a speech like this again. I support these bills so that no community has to experience a similar tragedy.

This bill means more than just gun safety. It means more than helping the family of which this tragedy afflicted. It means something to an entire community. And like a relentless, fiery, and persistent force we will not quit. WE WILL NOT BE TOLD NO.

I strongly support H.B. 7218, H.B. 7219 and S.B. 60 and urge you to favorably vote these bills out of the Judiciary Committee.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cargos
Guilford, CT