

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, ranking members Kissel and Rebimbas, Representative Scanlon, Senator Blumenthal, Senator Murphy, Congresswoman DeLauro and distinguished members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary:

My name is Nancy Cunningham, I am from Guilford, Connecticut. I am a concerned parent with children the same age as Ethan Song. In fact, they were classmates. They lost a thoughtful, intelligent, funny, sweet friend on January 31, 2018. The Song family lost a very special son. Ethan was friends with everyone. He was thoughtful of his grandmother, his parents, his siblings and his friends. The ripple effect of Ethan's death is felt throughout our community.

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*.

- 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.

Gun violence is getting closer and closer to home. Ethan's death was not in vain. He's brought a new awareness and a more clear answer to "How and why did this happen?"

- It happened because people have access to unsecured guns because of a loop hole in the law.
- Gun violence increases death by suicide by 3 times.
- Gun homicide is 25 times higher than that of other high-income countries.
- Firearms are the 2nd leading cause of death for American children and teens.
- Nearly 1,000,000,000 women alive today have been shot or shot at by an intimate partner.
- 4.5 million American women alive today have been threatened with a gun by an intimate partner.
- 3 million American children witness gun violence every year. 44% of American adults report knowing someone who has been shot.
- Every day, 100 Americans are killed with guns.
- Access to a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it 5 times more likely that a woman will be killed.
- Access to a gun doubles the risk of death by homicide.

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,  
Nancy Cunningham  
Guilford, Connecticut