

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

My name is Lorna Beth Steele, I am from Guilford, CT. I am a member of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, and a Guilford chapter leader of the national adolescent health and safety advocacy group, Start School Later, LLC. Below is my testimony on H.B. 7218 & H.B. 7219.

### **In Support of H.B. 7218: An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home**

I am grateful to the sponsors of Ethan's Law/H.B. 7218 for championing this much-needed improvement in Connecticut law.

I have deep and longstanding professional and personal interests in the health and well-being of our state's residents, particularly that of its children. With regards to health and safety of minors, safe firearms storage is an essential duty we as individual adults, and as a state, owe to our children.

Ethan Song's death was a dreadful shock to me. My son went to school with Ethan and they shared friends. It could just as easily have been one of my own children killed with an unsafely stored firearm while visiting another family's home. We must resolve the discrepancy in our law that precludes prosecution of such absurdly shoddy firearms storage as that which cost young Ethan his life.

Every minor in Connecticut needs and deserves to be adequately legally protected from unsafe firearm storage, as written in Ethan's Law/H.B. 7218.

### **In Support of H.B. 7219: An Act Concerning Ghost Guns**

I wholeheartedly support H.B. 7219. Ghost guns hamper our police from solving crimes and our courts from delivering justice to victims.

I lost a dear friend to gun violence almost 26 years ago. It still stings bitterly. David Allen Mason, was a young US Navy veteran, murdered brutally and senselessly on home soil at just 22 years of age.

Ghost guns allow cowards like the one who killed my friend, someone who should be blocked from access to firearms for life, to make an end-run around the law to obtain firearms once more – untraceable firearms at that.

Ghost guns have no place in Connecticut.

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

Sincerely,

Lorna Steele  
Guilford, CT