

# Mike Song Testimony for SB 858

I would like to present via Zoom.

My heart is heavy as I stand here today to share my story with you. My name is Mike Song and my son Ethan's life was taken from him in a split second, all because of an unsecured weapon in a neighbor's home. It was a day of celebration, the day my son got his braces off, and I still remember the joy I felt when my wife texted me his photo. But that joy was short-lived, as an hour later, I received a call that shattered my world. My son was shot and killed by an unsecured weapon.

I stand here before you today, not just as a grieving father, but as a voice for the countless lives that have been lost due to the negligence of gun owners who fail to secure their weapons. This is not just my story, it's a story that is repeated over and over again across the country and even here in Maryland. Every day, we hear of another child who has lost their life because a gun owner couldn't take the time to pop their weapon in a gun safe.

My heart goes out to Jaelynn's family, who are experiencing an unimaginable pain that no parent should ever have to endure. Their daughter's life was cut short because a gun owner failed to secure their weapon. My thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time.

We need to take action now to prevent more lives from being lost. It's time to realize that safe gun storage can reduce deaths like Ethan's, school shootings like Jaelynn's, stolen gun deaths, and most importantly, teen suicide. With new technology, securing firearms is easier than ever before. **Gun owners who secure their weapons will not only be protecting their loved ones but also decreasing the number of stolen guns – There are over 200,000 guns stolen each year.**

Imagine a world where guns are locked down, where there are no more Parklands or Sandy Hooks, and where Ethan and Jaelynn get to live their lives, graduate high school, get jobs, get married, and have kids of their own. It's up to us to make this a reality. Let's pass Jaelynn's Law, for the love of all that it means to be a good person. Let's protect our children, our families, and our communities. Let's make a change today.

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