

From : Kevin Wang <xxx>

To: wlippert@leg.state.vt.us, mgrad@leg.state.vt.us, maxig@wcvr.com, adonaghy@leg.state.vt.us, adonaghy@comcast.net, efrench@leg.state.vt.us, wjewett@leg.state.vt.us, tkoch@leg.state.vt.us, pkomline@leg.state.vt.us, rmarek@leg.state.vt.us, cmartin@leg.state.vt.us, ctm@vermontel.net, kathy4house@vermontel.net, kpellett@leg.state.vt.us, parkside@vtusa.net, hscheuermann@leg.state.vt.us

Cc: aaron.memory.09@gmail.com

Date: Sat, Apr 17, 2010 at 11:31 PM

Subject: H. 737 Child Access to Firearms, Aaron Xue

Hello members of the Judiciary Committee,

Saturday night one year ago, my family received a very chilling phone call. I saw my mom's facial expression and immediately knew something was serious, but I never would have guessed that something of this gravity had occurred.

One year ago today, April 17th, Aaron Xue took his own life on the grounds of Essex High School, with a firearm easily obtained from the family of another youth. I was shocked to learn that a person who I had spoken to only one week prior had now left this Earth. Speaking at his funeral, looking into the faces of hundreds of people who had come to remember his life, I realized other people had this same feeling, this same shock; the utter disbelief that someone so full of vitality had had their life ended so abruptly.

I can't help but think that if this legislation was passed 2 years prior, Aaron would still be with us today, that he would've never gotten the gun that ended his life. Perhaps it is a silly hope, but it is one that drives me, his parents, and many others today in support of this legislation. Knowing that we can't get Aaron back, we're working so that others won't have to experience the grief that his friends and especially his family had and has to; so that young lives will no longer be lost.

I understand the political realities of gun control, but I ask that you not view this bill as one of many others that will move through or stop at your committee. It is the legacy of a 15 year old, the hope that a life cut short will leave a lasting impact on this world.

-Kevin Wang

Sophomore, SBHS

From: Gary Ward <xxx>

To: Evans and Myers

Date: Thu, Feb 11, 2010 at 9:56 PM

Subject: CAP law

Dear Rep. Evans:

As a constituent and as a friend of the Xue family, I wanted to pass on my sincere thanks for your support of a Vermont CAP law. I know that supporting any kind of gun control legislation can be a difficult thing to do politically in our state, but in the case of a CAP law it's also the right thing and I applaud you for taking the position you have. Whether such a law would have saved Aaron's life we will unfortunately never know, but there is absolutely no question, based on the experience of the many other states that have enacted CAP laws, that the passage of a similar law in Vermont will save the lives of children in our community in the years ahead.

Thank you for introducing and supporting this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Gary Ward

XXXXX

Essex VT 05452

Date: Thu, 4 Feb 2010 21:34:43 -0500
From: Kesha Ram kesha.ram@gmail.com (Burlington representative)
Subject: Re: H.737 and budget
To: "Peggy L. Owen" <xxxx>

Hi Peggy,
Thanks for writing to me regarding H.737 and the proposed cuts to Human Services.

I'm glad you brought H.737 to my attention, as I think it is a great bill and will happily support it. I was a preschool teacher before entering the legislature, and am well aware how much their safety and wellbeing is in the hands of adults around them.

.....

Please continue to be in touch!

Kesha

Rep. Kesha Ram
Clerk, Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs
Vermont House of Representatives, Chittenden 3-4: Burlington
www.kesharam.org
(802) 881-4433

"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On Tue, Feb 2, 2010 at 8:04 PM, Peggy L. Owen <xxxxx> wrote:

Hello Ms. Ram,
First and foremost, I want to encourage you to vote in support of a new bill, H.737. I heard that the bill was read today and I will be writing to all Burlington Representative and Senators to support this important bill. Keeping children safe should always be our first priority and since CAP (Child Access Prevention) laws in other states have shown that such laws have decreased the risk of death by 23%! Fantastic. So, please, I ask for your support on this bill.

.....

I thank you for all the work you are doing on behalf of the people of Vermont.

Peggy Owen Sands