From: Donna Matrazzo
To: DeJong Annola
Subject: Testimony in favor of the four gun safety bills
Date: Monday, April 08, 2013 1:17:58 PM

To the Judiciary Committee,

I attended Friday's hearing for the full four hours but was not called up to testify. Here is my testimony:

I am in support of all four gun safety bills: 347, 699, 700 and 796.

More than four decades ago, my neighbor Tommy Yurko, 19 years old, was shot and killed by another kid when they were playing with a gun. I was a few years older. His mom Theresy was my mom's close friend and she had me come over to help. Theresy gave me her address book and asked me to call their relatives and close friends and tell them what happened to Tommy. I was traumatized, but I did it. Now as these killings continue to happen, I'm again flooded with that memory.

I am one of the millions of people who are indirect, or secondary, victims of gun violence. It never goes away -- wondering about the person Tommy would be.

As a nation, we are berserk with gun violence. Tens of thousands of our citizens die each year.

There are so many millions of guns in the U.S., and so many causes of gun deaths, that any measure to alleviate that will ultimately save lives. I encourage you to pass all four of these bills. You will never know the full extent of the lives saved, but any number at all has significant value.

Sincerely,

Donna Matrazzo
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Check out my gorgeous and portfolio-filled website at www.donnamatrazzo.com and my blog at http://MyRiverhouseLife.blogspot.com

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My book, "Wild Things: Adventures of a Grassroots Environmentalist," was an Oregon Book Awards finalist

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Donna Matrazzo
The Writing Works

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