

Episode 184-- The Role of Parents in Safe Firearm Storage

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SPEAKERS

Mike Song, Kristin Song, JJ Janflone, Kelly Sampson



JJ Janflone 00:08

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JJ Janflone 00:22

Hey, everybody. Welcome back to another episode of Red, Blue and Brady. I am one of your hosts, JJ and I am flying solo today; my typical co-host Kelly, my co hostess with the mostest, is out on a well deserved vacation. But fear not, I'm not alone, I am joined by two fantastic friends of the pod. Mike and Kristen Song. Mike and Kristen are phenomenal advocates who have been deeply engaged in gun violence prevention since the death of their son, Ethan. Today, they've been so gracious to join us to talk about Ethan's law, about the importance of asking, but also just why if you're a parent, or a firearms owner, or someone who happens to be both, you really need to concern yourself with safe and responsible storage.



Kristin Song 01:27

My name is Kristen Song and I am the co-president of the Ethan Miller Song Foundation. And I'm Mike Song. And I am also the co-president of the Ethan Miller Song Foundation. And we are Ethan's parents.



JJ Janflone 01:38

Well, and I think that kind of kicks us off, you've both been so kind to have come on before and you've shared with myself and with with our listeners a little bit about your son, Ethan. But I'm

wondering if you could give our listeners who haven't heard that episode or who are unfamiliar with your work, what brought you both into working and gun violence prevention.

M

Mike Song 01:58

What got us into gun violence prevention and into this community was that our son was shot on January 31st 2018. Ethan was 15 years old, and he had just gotten his braces off that day. And he walked out of our home and was kind of in a happy mood and went to a neighbor's home. Unbeknownst to us, there were many unsecured guns in that home. And the kids had been playing with those guns for six months to a year, probably closer to a year. And the parent had no oversight of this. And just everybody knew where the guns were, sometimes the guns were under the child's bed, because we had got reports from other kids that went through this house. So there may have been up to 30, 40, maybe 50 teenagers that knew that, you know that this was going on. But of course, you know, it's really teenagers are going to be a little secretive. It's the parent that provided the guns, just like if the parent provided drugs to kids, it wouldn't be the teenagers that I'd be wanting to punish. So Kristin got a phone call. And she saw two officers coming across the yard. And that was probably you know, when she tells this story, it's pretty, pretty powerful. Because it's that moment when darkness kind of creeps into your life. And these police officers probably had the worst job that day to tell somebody that they needed to go to the hospital, wouldn't tell Kristen why. And do you want to talk a little bit about that day, Kris, you want me to keep going? Or?

K

Kristin Song 03:24

Sure. You know, like Mike said, you know, Ethan and I had such an amazing day, that morning. You know, he wanted to go out and celebrate. So we headed off to breakfast and he was in such an incredible mood. He was just so confident about his life. He's told me he wanted his house to be like our home is now, full of music and laughter. That really was our house. You know, we were a very musical family, music was always on in our home. And Mike and I are very positive people and genuinely just loved raising our children. And, you know, when I saw those two police officers walk across, you know, my front lawn, you know, our nightmare began. And, you know, we headed off to the ER and, you know, Mike and I made a commitment, you know, on the way down that we were going to be able to overcome anything, you know, we were team Song, we got this, we've overcome a ton in our marriage and in our family. And we've always done it with incredible grace and with optimism. We had no idea what we were running into. And so when we ran into the ER and you know, there was like a collective hush that came over the ER, they were waiting for the parents of the dead child. And we had no idea. And so, you know, I was trying to fight my way to get to the base where I knew Ethan would be. And you know, Mike and I were escorted into a tiny little room that really no good news is delivered. And the you know, the ER doctor who happened to be from our hometown, you know, came in and he just slid down the wall and put his head in his hands and just you know, whispered to Mike and I that you know, your son is gone. And that was like, literally, like falling off a cliff for both Mike and I, you just never return to who you were. And so that really just started our, you know, started our journey down the unimaginable.



JJ Janflone 05:19

Well, I mean, I want to start by thanking you both. I know it can't be easy for you to

continuously have to go back to that day, mentally and emotionally. But it's so important, I think that you do so that other parents even just feeling I think maybe an echo of what you feel, you know, can learn from this. Because there's so many things that are horrifying, and what happened to Ethan, but when you walk through the story of even how guns were stored, I believe that I've read that, you know, at some points in shoe boxes or in Tupperware containers. And Mike, as you pointed out, numerous teens coming in and out of the home playing with with guns that no one knew about. What I really want to stress for listeners is, it's not like y'all were uninvolved parents. Right. You talk to your kids, you're clearly very involved with Ethan but teenagers keep secrets.

M

Mike Song 06:07

Yeah, yeah. So true. And I am a musician, like, as Kristen said, we love music. And I just happened to intersect with this band, Chicago, which is an amazing, you know, band. And hanging out with them, you know, I didn't know the story of how their guitar player died. But he died almost in a similar way that Ethan must have died, there was a bullet left in the chamber, he considered himself an absolute gun master. You know, he was NRA, everything, unusual to hear this about a musician, but he was and the gun just discharged accidentally. And so it really is disgraceful. I mean, it's a disgrace what happened, because all that person had to do was secure his weapons, would have taken him, you know, five seconds to do that. And check in on the kids, check in on the guns once in a blue moon. And we would have not be sitting here, going through this really, it's, it's a living hell that you go through. But for those survivors that are listening, you know, I know that you, like us, we found a mission here. And in partnering with Brady, and, you know, all the amazing organizations out there, which all seem to play a significant and slightly different role, which I think is really important. There's so many roles that are to play. And so I've just been amazed that Kristen goes out and tells that story, and changes hearts and minds. And it's incremental, we're going to do this, you know, changing, you know, one mind at a time. But what's happened in Buffalo today, which was another national disgrace, because people actually helped enable that, actually helped it along. And that's really criminal to me. So I'm pumped, more pumped up than ever just tried to keep the next kid safe. And so that's how that's that's how I feel. I feel kind of like, I feel like we're gaining power, even though we're seeing some terrible things happen. And irresponsible things happen and disgraceful things happen politically, particularly with how we haven't been able to get enough people on the Republican side of the fence onboard with simple, common sense. In this case, just the child safety law, even late safety law. So it to me is, to me, it's it's criminal in the sense that there's just no excuse for that you have no shame. If you're going to let kids play with guns, it's crazy.



JJ Janflone 08:20

Well, and that I mean, to speak too about, you know, these incremental steps and things that have been done, you both have been, you know, obviously instrumental in getting Ethan's Law to spread. And I wonder if maybe Kristin, we can kick off with you. But obviously, Mike, feel free to chime in. If you can tell our listeners what Ethan's Law is, and where you've got it passed, and things of that nature.

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Kristin Song 08:43

Sure. Ethan's Law is very simple, it just requires homes that have children, either living in the home or visiting, or if you have a home with an unauthorized person who is not allowed by law to own a gun, so a felon, you know, gets out of jail, and they move in with you. And you know, your job is to just secure those guns if they're not on your person or not in your immediate control so that children or unauthorized people cannot gain access to them. It's a very simple, simple law. And when you look at all of the especially children who are dying in the United States, the majority of them are dying because they gain access to an unsecured gun. And so that kind of hits all the buckets from you know, incidents like Ethan and the majority of those children who are dying in like Ethan's case are very young. I've spoken to a parent whose 18 month old, gained access to a gun and blew his head off and then you have the suicides. I talked to those parents all the time, they had no idea their child was in crisis. You know, not only are they walking the unimaginable, like Mike and I but they also have that extra layer of guilt that they have to deal with because they they know if they had taken 30 seconds to lock up their gun, their child would have been in crisis. And they would eventually realize that and gotten their child the appropriate help. You know, a school shooting, 76% of the school shootings are fulfilled with an unsecure gun and either from the home or from a relative's home. So just by simply, you know, securing your weapons when they're not in your immediate control could save, you know, hundreds of children's lives. And it's such an easy thing to do, and, and the right thing to do. So now, you know, we did get a pass in Connecticut, I did testify in Maryland, they did not pass. Maine just passed a version of Ethan's law. I testified in Missouri, you know, so the states are starting to realize that, you know, this is a law that does not infringe on the Second Amendment in any way. And so it is not coming after your guns, it's just asking you to step up and be responsible.

M

Mike Song 10:53

But the really tragic thing about this to me in the fight to not secure weapons and not have a law that just enforces it, the incredible thing about it is that your teenage son could hit some tough times, your teenage daughter could hit some hard times, they could just have that terrible year of their life. They they lose their friend somehow, maybe they are embarrassed. And maybe they feel like it's really over. And they have that one bad day and that worst year of their life. And on that one bad day, they had a two hour period where they really wanted to kill themselves, and you just left a gun, within easy reach for that impulse thing to happen. And that is happening everywhere. Kids are very, there's a lot of behavioral health challenges, our young people have just been through an isolation period that's been unprecedented. A lot of their world got shattered, they're putting it back together. And there's more guns, there's way more guns than there ever were before. This is just an intersection with, you know, a massive amount of guns, a massive amount of unsecured guns and a massive amount of kids who may be troubled and be a threat to themselves or others. And before we can get them the behavioral health help they need. Terrible, terrible kids are committing suicide. And it's one and done. It's so definitively successful with guns. And I say successful, the most horrific form of that word, but they have a higher rate of going through with it. So I just think about the Mad dad who's talking about freedom. And their child is sitting back there going, I don't really feel good today. I don't really feel like I want to see tomorrow.

K

Kristin Song 12:25

I had a mom, I didn't even know her. She Facebook messaged me and said, you know, can I call you? And so she called me and she told me about how her son's girlfriend broke up with them.

year and so she called me and she told me about how her son's girlfriend broke up with them. And she knew he was in crisis. She knew that he was really sad. And he was really depressed. And so she actually, this is a teenage son, she actually made him sleep in her bed. She was like, I'm gonna have eyes on you at all times. And, you know, he walked in, you know, he had to go the bathroom, you know? So he was 16. So she's like, alright, I'm not gonna follow him into the bathroom, and he took all of her pills. And, you know, she she was right there, you know, so she was knocking on the door, you know, she broke in and she was calling me because after Ethan died, they locked up their guns, not because they thought their child was going to commit suicide, but because they were just worried that like the teenage boys could gain access and be stupid and someone could get hurt. And she was calling me because she wanted to thank me because she knew that if she had guns in the house, her son would've used the gun, and she wouldn't have had a chance to save him. So she said we had an hour to save him. And we saved him. And so I just wanted to thank you. And so you know, you know, that was an unusual case, in the sense that the mother understood that her child was in crisis. We talked to so many parents who have zero idea that their child's in crisis, because these children will sit and smile at you. And then they will walk you know, I just had a mom call me, her son supposed to graduate in a couple of weeks. He, he just he just had just applied to college. He's got this interview that the school that like his, you know, his favorite school in the world. And she was, they were just so excited. You know, he walked to the beach with their gun and he blew his head off because he was being teased at school. And this was a senior in high school, you know, and little did that young man understand that in four years, he probably wouldn't even remember who was teasing him his senior year in high school or cared, you know, and that's the problem is that these children don't see beyond that immediate crisis in their life. And they don't realize, you know, listen in a year, you're not gonna remember who's teasing, you're not gonna remember who broke up with you. You're gonna like, what was her name? You know, but we don't give them that opportunity. Because, you know, we're not locking up our guns.

 Mike Song 14:41

Yeah. When we were debating the NRA. At one event, a parent said, well, I told my kids not to do it, so they're not going to do it. And I said, you know, that's probably if you're at a party and you have a parent that says my kids will never make a mistake. I told them once, they're great, that house is probably the most dangerous house on the planet, because that is just so delusional. We and it's true, like young boys when I was young, particularly, you know, 15, 16 When I was Ethan's age, we did a lot of, you know, we jumped off cliffs into the water. And, you know, we did a lot of risky stuff. But you know, Ethan, was in so many places, but that place he died was a house with an unsecured gun, you know, and that's, that's the most dangerous place, your kid could be in there today. You don't don't know.

 JJ Janflone 15:29

Well, and that's a lot for you, I'm sure to hear these stories, as well, and to have to carry them along with obviously your experience with what happened to Ethan.

 Kristin Song 15:38

And so, you know, I've met with, I think, almost every single Democrat in the House. And I've met with over 100 Republicans. So when you talk about telling that story, you know, I've told it right there, you know, over, you know, 200 times, and it is very traumatic. And it is

right there, you know, over, you know, 500 times, and it is very traumatizing. And it is exhausting. And it does take a toll on Mike and I. But we are so committed to making sure this doesn't happen to other children and to other families.



JJ Janflone 16:07

And for for just for folks who are listening to this and who are like my state needs this. How do they how do they get in contact with you? How do we get you in every state?



Mike Song 16:16

Well, we created a resource at songstrong.org/map. So [song strong.org](https://songstrong.org) forward slash [map](https://songstrong.org/map). And if you go there, there's a map of the whole country. And you can see how your state's laws stack up to everybody else. Kristin also had some impact in Colorado, where they looked to what she was able to accomplish here in Connecticut, because we talked to the folks from there, and they passed as safe gun storage law. We graded them as an A, I think an A minus, which is really good. Massachusetts is like the gold standard for the country. Connecticut's excellent, it's an A state. They're definitely out there. So that's where you can go songstrong.org/map. I know you folks have great resources as well, at Brady, so it's to me, you know, check out where your state is at. Because there's like five things that make up what these laws are. I mean, you could just memorize PCA: prevent child access. That's it, who's against preventing kids from accessing guns, without the authority of their parents to be by them. And we can't thank you enough for the platform that you've given us. You guys are heroes in this. And we are, you know, really what Kristen is, is a hero to me, because she goes out every day. And and tells the story to Congresspeople and she changes their minds. It's just she might not change their vote, because they're so locked down on the other side of the aisle. But I mean, it's been really quite, I've just always been amazed at her tenacity. But now I'm just like, she's she's walking with, she's a heavyweight out over there. I mean, in terms of getting in, talking to the, you know, all the folks out there and, and I want to just compliment folks on the Democratic side of the fence have really come along. And there's a lot of co sponsors and a lot of momentum. So I hope we can all just pull together and get this done for the kids.



JJ Janflone 18:08

Speaking to the you being a heavy hitter. Kristin, I'm going to quote you at you. Now from a piece that I've read, where you talked, I think very beautifully, that Ethan's law and other legislation like it is a child safety measure. It's not a gun control measure. And I wonder if you can speak to why that distinction, one is true. And then two, you know why that's such an important distinction to make, maybe when we're speaking legislatively to folks.



Kristin Song 18:35

So when you know, after Ethan died, and you know, as an attorney, like my comfort zone is research, and so I just started researching everything. And what I started doing is researching the number one causes of death in children. And I started back from like the 1900s. So for example, like fire was the number one killer of children, I think, in the 1950s. And, you know, so we figured it out, okay, if we just put smoke detectors, you know, in the homes, we're gonna

save so many more, and now it's like ninth or 10th in you know, the amount of children are killed, you know, and so I kind of just followed that whole trajectory, and then I came to gun violence that came to, you know, the 2018-2019 and I realized that gun violence was the number one killer of children and what's going on? Why is there no money being spent? Why are we not coming together as a country to protect our children? And you know, and I just started looking at all the safety laws and it's really just an extension of of child, you know, child seats, you know, car seats, smoke detectors, life preservers, you name it fences around pools, anything that this country has identified as being something that kills our children. We are all over it and we do an amazing job in reducing and driving down the deaths of children. That's all this law does. You know, as Mike can talk about the technology and the safes.

M

Mike Song 19:55

I have my safe right here, you know, and basically, I just opened my safe you know, and, and I don't have a gun inside of there, but I have my son inside of there. So no gun, there's my son, and he would be alive if the guy who owned that home just did that, that literally opened in half a second. You know, there's also a PIN code option. It's, it's inconceivable to me that we can't add more gun safes into the mix. And I think that could be part of Ethan's law. And I'm really I mean I'm pushing for, hey, if we get \$50 million, and put it into a million gun safes in this country, and pass Ethan's law, now we're coming at it from two powerful directions, we're reaching out to folks who have guns and just saying, hey, you don't have a gun safe. It's just, you know, you put your fingerprint on it and it opens, those are like in the PIN code safes are 50, or \$60. So, you know, in every single American, you know, who's out there with a kid, I just hope to God that your son isn't a picture inside of a gun safe someday versus sitting there giving you a hug, when you get home from work. And, and I just feel like, you know, it's, it's time, it's time for change. But you know, what, we're never going to give up, we're never going to stop, we're never gonna lose energy, we're gonna go, we don't care. You know, if the if bad things happen, from a political point of view on the playing field, it will only mean that this issue is going to become even more dire as this issue's ignored. So my friend, Manny Oliver, you know, he just loves to say, Mike, you just got to step back and look at history, look at where we were in 1960. And in 1970, with civil rights and it moved forward, even though it seemed like it would never change. So I think it will change. And, you know, when I see Kristin going up there, and, you know, and people just changing their minds, she testified in front of the Senate, testified really against the NSSF, in the sense that they were there pro, you know, against Ethan's law, she was there for Ethan's law. And even by the, if you watch the video of that testimony, they make a very, very, I would say, and I kind of respect him for this, they actually didn't come out and slam Ethan's law at all. They basically were like, yeah, we think it's kind of the right thing to do. But we have reservations about it being a law. It was it was clear to me that they agree that we have to keep kids safe by locking guns up. And so for me, it's just absolutely the mission that we're on. And we're just so thankful that we have an army of people now, who are motivated. And all I can say is don't don't get your spirits down, stay positive.



JJ Janflone 22:31

But I wonder if you can talk to Mike because I've now seen you kind of open that safe and, and kind of do that demo for a few folks just about how easy and accessible they are. Because I know when I've talked to folks about them, the immediate thought has been, oh, they don't

actually work or they're clunky, or they're prohibitively expensive. And I've heard both of you now speak to how that's not true at all.

M

Mike Song 22:54

Yeah, I agree. And I mean, if I my opinion is that if you have a gun safe, and you can get a PIN code, say for 60 bucks or 70 bucks. You know, if you're a gun owner, I strongly recommend doing that versus using gun locks that have a key, it's just things with a key are you have to kind of track your key. I think they're way better than nothing. I mean, way, way better than nothing. But I think a gun safe is a better option. It's so convenient. And you just pop in, you end up actually protecting more of your stuff. I mean, this isn't my actual SAVAK, I have a biometric safe in my house bolted to the wall, that's a lot bigger than that one. And so you just start popping your if you get, you know, like I had a surgery, I popped my pain medication in there, so no one could get to it. The safes are really fantastic. It's just, it's just not an argument anymore. Just don't let anybody make the argument. Well, I can't get to my gun. Yeah. Okay, best of both worlds. We don't have to argue about this. You have \$70, you know, to keep the kids safe. I mean, that's really what we're saying here.

K

Kristin Song 23:54

Yeah. I mean, you know, it's clunky, car seats are clunky. You know, I know, I have three children. You know, they were very clunky. They're very hard to carry around. But we do it because we love our children. And we want to make sure that we really take out of the equation, any risks to their lives. And so, you know, we also get like, well, they're expensive. And you know, my response is, well, car seats run, you know, 80 to 100 bucks, but I've never heard anyone, you know, refuse to get one because they're expensive. You do it because you love your child. And you know that car seats have now driven down the deaths in infants and young children. They work and so do gun safes.



JJ Janflone 24:40

But if you don't do it, I think to your end on the on the car seats, if I don't put a child in a car seat, and I drive, I'm legally negligent.

K

Kristin Song 24:50

Absolutely. And that's you know, another thing that's really infuriating, because, you know, thank God for that Oxford prosecutor, Michigan prosecutor, because that's what the prosecutors should be doing, and that's what the prosecutor should have done in Ethan's case. And for some reason, you know, these prosecutors across our country are nervous about charging negligent gun owners. And you know, if you look, if you googled right now, you know, a parent who did not secure their child in a car seat and got into an accident, that child died, I can guarantee you that, that parents in jail because you know, the judges don't give passes to parents who don't secure their children in a car seat, and there should be no passes for negligent gun owners. We need to get the message out that you know, you need to secure your weapons, it is as equally important as strapping your child into a car seat.



JJ Janflone 25:43

Well, I'm curious about that, is the prosecutor's decision in the case of the young man who committed the Oxford shooting? Is the prosecutors decision to charge those parents for allowing him access to a gun? Does that signal something sort of positive for you? And how laws are changing?



Kristin Song 25:59

Yeah, I mean, that was big. So there are some who are starting to say, you know, enough is enough. And, you know, it's funny, I've had conversations with some pretty large organizations in this country that you would be shocked. But their response is, you know, well, they've already lost a child. So we don't really want to pile on. Which, to me is just insane. That's just basically empowering negligent gun owners to not take any action. So I, you know, so I guess if we're going to, we're going to use that argument, then we should say, well, then we should never charge a parent who doesn't strap their kid in a car seat, we should never charge a parent who doesn't have life preservers on the boats, we should never charge a parent who decides, you know what, I don't want these smoke detectors in my house they're a pain in my butt, you know, in a fire, you know? So, what, why does a negligent parent get a pass when it involves a gun, but any other area, you know, we hold that parent accountable? It's just you know.



Mike Song 26:59

Yeah. Well, you know what, I want to be frank about this. I think we need the law. Because if you asked this person who was in the house where Ethan died? Are all the guns locked up in there? I guarantee he was oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. So one, I just want to really say I love the fact that people ask, and they should ask, and it's a beautiful thing to do. But just be very wary when an irresponsible person usually doesn't admit that they are. And so that's one thing that I would say is, you know, try to be really vigilant. Just you know, hey, do you guys are you guys gun owners? I have some friends who are gun owners, oh, they are? Yeah, it does. How do you how do you secure those weapons? You know, get conversational with them about it. I think it's such an important thing to for people who are gun owners who who lock up their guns, just talk that up just talking that up to people, hey, I secure my guns, I separate the guns and ammo. I debated a guy from the NRA. And he was like, I just locked my guns up, Mike. Yeah, we've never, you know, he was so disciplined about it. And that's, that's so I think on our side, we need, I think we probably would get farther with the folks we need to influence who are the, on the Republican side of the fence. If we approached it like, more like, if we the folks who are on our side of the fence who do own guns, because there are quite a few, need to talk up a little bit more, talk about what they do, you know, I secure my gun this way, I've got a Glock or whatever it is, I think we have to do some of that, you know, just we're so close to getting this bill passed. And Kristen has done and her team with, you know, Paul Murray, and, you know, it's just been incredible. Your whole group, Kris, that you you've gotten, it's such such great leadership. And I'm just amazed at how many co sponsors they have and how things are going for this.

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Kristin Song 28:36

I remember someone asked me, you know, should I contact your secretary? And I was like, who, me? You know, because, you know, I've, I've set up every single meeting of the Democrats and Republicans that I've spoken to, and I tell people, we have 0.0 dollars in this fight, because it's true. But you know, but we have a strong will. And we have a strong desire. Because, you know, I tell people, every time a parent reaches out to me and talks to me about their child dying, it really is, you know, I always tell Mike I always, whenever I testify, whenever I talk to anyone, I carry those children in my heart. And when I met with the President, I carried a list of all their names. And these are people I don't even really know that well. Because they matter. Their children matter. They are important. And they are like a weight around my ankles. Because I do take in all of their stories very personally, and I do feel because you know, when we saw the Buffalo shooting, I know exactly what's going to happen. Some of them are gonna get police officers walking across their front lawn, and some of them are gonna get a phone call. And, you know, I can just viscerally feel what what they're experiencing because we went through it. And it is you know, like Mike said, every time there's a mass shooting, it throws his country into chaos. And it traumatizes.

M

Mike Song 30:13

I did want to say one thing, too, if you're a survivor, and you're inspired by, you know, Kristin's story, she did meet with President Biden twice. She's, you know, I'm amazed at what she's accomplished. Please get in touch with her because your story and your state and your district might be the one that we need to put this over the top, particularly if you're a Republican, or you're a gun owner, or because the Republicans take that very seriously. And I know that they secretly want to do the right thing. I know that it doesn't seem like that from what you sometimes see on TV, but we met with a lot of nice people who were like, yeah, I'll take this to my boss, and I don't see why he would say no, or she would say no. And then they did say no, but we know that there's some people out there with courage.

**JJ Janflone 30:52**

Courageous folks, like you who we rely and by we, I mean, you know, the gun violence prevention movement rely so much on. I'm curious, what's, what's coming up for you, you know, what is next sort of for Ethan's law?

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Kristin Song 31:10

Well, we are waiting on pins and needles to hear if, you know, the Sheila Jackson Lee legislation, and Nathan's law is gonna get a hearing or a vote. Apparently, Ethan's law had already been kind of discussed in another hearing. So I guess it checks off that box. And so you know, the good news is Speaker Pelosi is behind Ethan's Law. Nadler's is behind Ethan's law. Now. It's just kind of getting all the players in position, and, you know, calling the vote and who knows what 2022 will bring, you know, I'm hoping we will have the majority of the house and be able to get some legislation moving. And so we'd love to have Ethan's law kind of queued up to do that.

M

Mike Song 31:59

Yeah, it's historic what Kristin has accomplished, and her amazing, you know, people that she works with. And I want to say that, you know, Kristen Brown is really a person that's near and dear to our heart here. And she's been just a great, you know, and Mr. Collins. Yeah, yeah, Mark Collins, they've been really fascinating. And the secondary strategy that we have is, let's go state by state, let's look at the states that are purple, and that maybe are thinking, you know, that where we could push this forward and make a concerted effort, and we've got some pretty high level folks going to help us go state to state. So that's also going to be something that will keep pushing we got. If Texas has a version of Ethan's law, and Florida and Maine have a version of Ethan's law, we really think that other states like New Mexico would be fantastic. So if you're in a state that has nothing, you know, if you look at that map, and you're like, we have nothing, nothing's protecting our kids, hey, email us, you can email us from that website. You know, info at Songstrong.org, where you can find Kristen at KristenSong3 at, you know, on Twitter, and at Ethan'slaw too on Twitter. You know, let's all work together. You know, I just JJ, I just love that you're here. You know, you're you're given this issue, the space and the platform. And, you know, we just think it's a bedrock American issue. Kids around, lock guns down.

**JJ Janflone 33:14**

Thank you for that. And thank you to both of you for continuing to come on for continuing to share Ethan, and your family, you know, with the world to try to prevent this from happening to someone else. It takes incredible strength and grace. And you know, we'll link obviously, in the description of this episode, everyone, but please, folks take these lessons to heart.

**JJ Janflone 33:37**

I just want to say that I'm so thankful to Mike and Kristen, both for coming on and for the work that they continue to do. It's really hard for me to hear survivor stories often sort of week in and week out. But I can't imagine what it is to live with the experiences and the loss that these folks have engaged with, and then to continue to have the strength to try to save other people from having to go through that loss. I just really want to encourage all of our listeners that if you have any questions about safe or responsible storage, particularly if you're around or have children in your life, I heavily encourage you to go to all the links we have in the description of this episode, but especially to Brady's End Family Fire Program at endfamilyfire.org where we have suggestions and links to resources and things because there's kids that we should have with us and we don't and I don't want that to keep happening.

**JJ Janflone 34:34**

Hey! Want to share with the podcast? Let's just now get in touch with us here at Red, Blue and Brady via phone or text message. Simply call or text us at 480-744-3452 with your thoughts, questions, concerns, ideas, whatever, Kelly and I are standing by.

K

Kelly Sampson 34:48

Thank you for listening. As always, Red, Blue and Brady is a community. If you have any questions or

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