Dear Legislators:

My name is Jennifer Lee, and I am a resident of Madison, Conn. I am submitting this testimony as a supporter of Sandy Hook Promise. As your constituent – and as a supporter of Sandy Hook Promise – I urge you to support H.B. 7218 ("Ethan's Law") as it moves through the legislature.

Named for Ethan Song, who lost his life in 2018, Ethan's Law would fix a loophole in current law, which states that criminal liability can only be imposed if a gun is stored loaded. Ethan's Law would close this loophole by clarifying that the law also applies to unloaded guns. Ethan's Law further extends these protections to all children by changing the definition of minor, from children 16 and younger to children 18 and younger.

By closing this loophole and expanding the definition of liability, Ethan's Law makes it clear that safe storage is a crucial component of gun violence prevention.

I taught at a small high school in New Haven for twenty-two years and saw first hand how the threat of gun violent impacted the school climate. Over the years that I taught, I knew that a few of our students suffered gunshot wounds; at least one died from the resulting injuries. When I started teaching, entry to the school building was relatively relaxed. During my tenure, the high school had to tighten security due to the worry of gun violence and the tragedy at Newtown. Each day, every student passed through metal detectors and had their backpacks screened. Although the school community adjusted, those remembering simpler times were saddened that fear of gun violence had become such an integral part of life in the United States of America.

As a supporter of Sandy Hook Promise, I am committed to stopping gun violence BEFORE it happens. Ethan's Law is a step toward more comprehensive safe storage requirements and moves us closer to achieving safety for all.

I ask that you please support Ethan's Law as it moves forward.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hoffman Lee
Jennifer Hoffman Lee
Madison