My name is Mary Ellen Masciale, and I am a resident of New London, CT.

I am submitting this testimony as a healthcare worker, volunteer with Sandy Hook Promise and supporter of Moms Demand Action. As your constituent, 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 do neurological testing at a hospital in CT, and I have personally seen victims of gun violence, gun accidents, and suicide. It is always tragic, and affects more than just the victim. Survivors almost always have disabilities and emotional issues, and these are the “lucky” ones. We need to stem the increase in gun accessibility by common sense measures. 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,

Mary Ellen Masciale

New London, CT