

Good afternoon Chairman Klemin

and members of the judiciary committee

My name is Susan Beehler , a Mandan resident, born in ND, life long resident of North Dakota, mother of 5, grandma to 3, a small business owner, founding member of the North Dakota chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense of America.

I am opposed to HB 1193 . I am pro life and I believe this is a law that encourages deadly force rather than deescalation, life preservation.

I know violence. I am survivor of domestic violence. My father lost his leg to a 22 in 1945. My future son-in-law never knew his father. His father was shot in the head and killed with a 22 over a dispute with a neighbor while living and working in Alabama. Growing up our family dog was shot. My German immigrant grandmother lost her brother and nephew in a shooting over a dispute over a bag of grain. My Norwegian grandfather 's niece was married to my grandmother's brother who was murdered. So two families were effected by the same tragic event. A gun violence incident has a ripple effect through generations, many being effected by one incident not just those directly involved.

The past couple legislative sessions we have eroded gun laws put in place to protect our citizens, to encourage gun safety and responsibility. Now anyone can conceal carry with a ND driver's license even though driving a car and passing a driving test has nothing to do with proper weapon handling or gun safety or knowledge of any self defense. Are North Dakotans safer?

We hear of a ND citizen taking their gun and firing it at a person in a Bismarck Lowe's parking lot because of suspected shoplifting. https://bismarcktribune.com/news/local/bismarck/felony-charge-filed-in-bismarck-parking-lot-shooting/article_a494177d-fa4f-56f1-b034-11db842cd124.html
Are we spawning vigilantism with these types of laws?

Our state Capitol has metal detectors after the relaxing of our gun laws? Would you feel safer if I was testifying in front of this committee with a loaded AR15 and a hand gun on my hip? Especially after what we seen on January 6 at our nation's Capitol? What kind of detectors do we as life long North Dakota residents get after the relaxing of these gun laws?

Why do we need a "stand your ground" law in our state? Why shouldn't we keep our long standing tradition of self defense in our state?

Stand Your Ground laws are associated with increases in homicide rates resulting in more than 150 additional gun deaths each month.

Marc Levy et al., "Stand Your Ground: Policy and Trends in Firearm-Related Justifiable Homicide and Homicide in the US," Journal of the American College of Surgeons 230, no. 1 (2020): 161-167.e4, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jamcollsurg.2019.11.003>

Stand Your Ground laws were associated with an increase in firearm injuries resulting in emergency room visits and hospitalizations. McClellan CB, Tekin E. Stand your ground laws, homicides, and injuries. National Bureau of Economic Research. 2012.

There are no studies that associate broadening self-defense laws with deterring crime. Cheng C, Hoekstra M. Does strengthening self-defense law deter crime or escalate violence? Evidence from castle doctrine. National Bureau of Economic Research. 2012. See also: Gius M. The relationship between stand-your-ground laws and crime: A state-level analysis. The Social Science Journal. 2016; 53(3): 329-338.

I urge a do not pass on HB 1193 we don't need it.

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