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Good morning Chairman Larson and members of the Senate judiciary committee

1 message

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Tue, Apr 6, 2021 at 6:38 AM

To: Susan Beehler <suzybbuzz@gmail.com>

Good morning Chairman Larson and members of the Senate judiciary committee

Testimony HB1498

My name is Susan Beehler a mother of 5, a grandmother of 3. I was born in North Dakota, a life long resident of North Dakota, a Mandan resident for almost 30 years, District 31, a small business owner, a former Girl Scout leader, camp director, camp cook, youth church director, camp director, camp cook, a domestic violence shelter advocate, a survivor of domestic violence not by my husband but my father.

I am opposed to HB 1498. I urge a do not pass.

I am opposed to removing civil liability. If someone pulls a gun on me or any family member in a property dispute and they are doing so to bully or intimidate then the party threatened or shot should be able to seek civil remedy if they choose. I am not an attorney so I don't know. The bill states civil action so would this also include protection orders or recklessness, negligence?

In the section page 2 starting on line 25, as a survivor of domestic violence, an abuser feels they have the right or are entitled to commit violence against another. This section gives them immunity. This puts family members in a even more dangerous position. As a advocate for domestic violence victims and survivors I have seen abusers threaten the use of violence over a perceived threat or shared property, this bill gives a abuser permission and little accountability.

The very last portion of granting immunity for threaten in your home is particular scary in a domestic situation.

I have been testifying since 2013 to a long string of bills which have loosened our gun laws with the most hashing over being able to have a loaded firearm anywhere and it seems like everywhere. I often hear scenarios of an unknown assailant coming into a home and the proliferation of our long-standing laws is being justified by the fear of this unknown intruder.

Looking to the crime reports from our ND Attorney General's office this is not the reality of the murders happening in our state. The reality is the victims know their killer.

Looking at the Homicide report for 2018 P2

<https://attorneygeneral.nd.gov/sites/ag/files/documents/2018-HomicideReport.pdf>

P. 7 a handgun was used in more of those murders in 2018 then since 1999.

Is this a correlation to the relaxing of our gun laws?

P. 10 of the report of the murders involved domestic violence, a husband, a family member, a boyfriend committing the murder.

P. 11 & 13 An adult male is doing most of the killing.

In the Report for 2019 P4

<https://attorneygeneral.nd.gov/sites/ag/files/documents/2019-HomicideReport.pdf>

Our state has had the most murders since 2000. Has the change in laws made us safer or less safe? Since most of the killings are women. These changes to the law do not make me as a woman feel safer. It seems it has made it easier for the assailant to obtain their weapon of choice, a firearm.

P. 13 most murders occur in the residence/home.

The boogie man is not a stranger.

The scenarios of the women needing protection from some random assailant is not the North Dakota reality.

The reality is their is blood running in our homes

P29 we have had a 75% increase in murder.

Will this Bill make our homes safer? You have been elected to make laws that protect all our citizens and insure our rights are protected. Dead women no longer have rights, so when you vote are you protecting those most likely to be murdered by a firearm or making it easier for them to be killed?