

House Bill No. 1489
Senate Judiciary Committee
Testimony Presented Seth O'Neill, JD, MSW
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Chairwoman Larson and the Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Seth O'Neill, and I represent the North Dakota Domestic & Sexual Violence Coalition, in support of HB 1489. This bill would consolidate the various civil protection order provisions into one section of the North Dakota Century Code and make a few small adjustments to the law.

The first civil protection order law in North Dakota was passed in the 46th Legislative Assembly in 1979. Our organization (then known as the Council on Abused Women's Services) worked with legislators to pass the first version of the Domestic Violence Protection Order. Since 1979, we have worked on refining the law to ensure it protects victims of domestic and sexual violence including last session when this Committee worked with us to add stalking to the definition of domestic violence. Throughout time, disorderly conduct restraining orders and sexual assault restraining orders were also added.

In addition to the consolidation of the civil protection orders into one area of code, this bill makes some necessary improvements to clarify existing language and make the process more efficient for all parties.

One small amendment I have is to clarify that a family or household member includes individuals who were previously in a dating relationship. Currently, this is not included in the definition of family or household member which it appears was an unintentional error given that other similar relationships are already included.



Amendment:

Page 3, Line 9 after relationship insert "or who were in a dating relationship in the past"

Page 6, line 3 after relationship insert "or who were in a dating relationship in the past"

Chairwoman Larson, and members of the committee, we encourage the committee to give HB 1489 a "Do-Pass" recommendation with the suggested amendment. I appreciate your time and I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank You.

