

<< TESTIMONY ON HB 1077 >>
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Good morning Chairman Klemin and members of the House Judiciary Committee. For the record, my name is Carel Two-Eagle.

I have been in business most of my life. This means I am not like the general run of citizens, in that I have used attorneys many times throughout my life for ordinary life transactions, such as wills. I have had an attorney of record for most of that time.

Being in business, I have come to know the importance of a will. I am much in favor of this bill, partly because of the convenience it brings, especially to people like me, who are physically impaired. Being able to make a valid will electronically promotes our independence, which is a most important aspect of our lives.

I have been named Executor for several people's wills – some of whom had not considered making a will until it was brought to their attention that they actually had property they wanted to insure would go to specific beneficiaries, and not to the state or whoever got to it first.

When one of my grandmothers went to the Spirit world, I had gotten her to make a will only weeks before she went on. We kept it quiet, because there were relatives who had already made plans for her property – which was not much, but it was hers, and she wanted it to go where she wanted it to, not where the greedy and self-centered planned. The reality of this will made for quite an uproar for the small dollar value involved, but money was not the point.. Sentimental value was. To the Lakota way of thinking, that alone made having a will a desirable thing.

I know this bill is likely to pass without opposition, but I still wanted to stand in favor of it, if for no other reason than to encourage those who would not otherwise make a will to do so. If they value something, others almost certainly do, too.

Thank you for hearing me in a good way now. I am always available to answer any questions you may have.