

Testimony of HB 1411 - in Opposition

My name is Jacqueline Beller.

I am testifying in opposition of HB 1411. I live in Fargo, ND in District 46 and am a gun violence prevention advocate.

To put it simply, Extreme Risk Protection Orders have been proven to save lives. Banning them would cause harm to our community.

When a person is in crisis, there are often clear signs that they are considering harming themselves or others. Family members and law enforcement are often the first to notice these signs and should be able to act to prevent harm by *temporarily* removing access to firearms from someone in crisis. Research shows that access to a gun when in crisis *triples* the risk of that person dying by suicide.

ERPO laws in other states (adopted in 21 states and D.C.) have proven to help de-escalate emergency situations and prevent suicides and mass shootings. Since Indiana passed its Extreme Risk law in 2005, the state's firearm suicide rate decreased by 7.5 percent.

Every year, 89 people in ND die from gun suicide and 12 more are wounded in attempted gun suicide. This is a growing crisis in ND and it must be addressed. Passing HB 1411 would tie the hands of future legislatures who may want to use this research-based approach to prevent gun deaths in the state.

I encourage a **DO NOT PASS** recommendation on **HB 1411**.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

Jacqueline Beller

Resources:

- <https://everytownresearch.org/report/extreme-risk-laws-save-lives/#conclusion>
- https://everystat.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/North_Dakota_2024-October.pdf