

## Testimony in Opposition to HB1411

I am writing to oppose HB 1411. I was born and raised in Fargo, and we returned over 20 years ago. I've volunteered for various programs focusing on children and families, and advocate for gun violence prevention. My concern with the role guns play in too many suicides, and the rate of suicide in North Dakota leads me to oppose this bill.

### **This bill poses several significant concerns:**

1. HB 1411 would preemptively tie the hands of future legislatures who may want to save lives and take a research-based approach to addressing gun suicide in our state.
2. Extreme Risk Protection Orders are a common sense solution to this real problem which have already been adopted by 21 states and the District of Columbia, and we know they work. In the decade since Indiana passed its Extreme Risk law in 2005, the state's firearm suicide rate decreased by 7.5 percent. Connecticut saw a 14% reduction in the firearm suicide rate.
3. When a person is in crisis and considering harming themselves or others, family members and law enforcement are often the first people to see the warning signs. Extreme Risk laws allow loved ones or law enforcement to intervene by petitioning a court for an order to **temporarily** prevent someone in crisis from accessing guns.

**I encourage you to recommend DO NOT PASS for HB 1411.**

**Lori Tiongson**