

**Testimony of Sarah Dixon-Hackey**  
**Suicide Prevention Public Policy Ambassador:**  
**ND Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention**

Chairman Porter, committee members and staff:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed ban on Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs). As a Volunteer Advocate with the ND Chapter of The American Foundation for Suicide prevention and a Mental Health First Aid Trainer, I have come to learn the value and importance of ERPOS in suicide prevention.

In order to understand the impact that HB 1411 could have on our state's future suicide prevention efforts, it is important to first acknowledge findings by our state's Suicide Prevention Review Committee. In their 2025 report the Suicide Prevention Review Committee found that rates of suicide have increased 27.6% from 2018 to 2022. It was also reported that white, non-Hispanic males represented the highest rates with *firearms* serving as the number one form of lethal means. Between 2019 to 2022, North Dakota lost 724 of its residents to suicide. This equates to approximately 3 people per week. During this 4-year period, our state demonstrated a rate that was 42% higher than the national average.

In our work to reduce rates of suicide in North Dakota, ERPOs can function as a critical and lifesaving tool by preventing suicidal individuals from accessing weapons during a time of heightened risk. Because our state's data has shown that firearms are the number one form of lethal means for suicide in North Dakota, banning ERPOs would potentially eliminate a life-saving form of prevention.

I ask that you stand with the safety and well-being of the people of North Dakota and oppose any efforts to ban Extreme Risk Protection Orders. These laws help save lives, and I urge you to prioritize public safety by continuing to support them.

Sincerely,

Sarah Dixon-Hackey