

Jenn Bailey - Minot, ND
SB2326

Good Morning Senators,

I am writing in support of SB2326. I was shocked to learn that a simple search on the ND Courts website for a restraining order led to me being able to see a victim's name. I was under the assumption that Marsy's Law protected a victim's name from being released. Once I looked into the law and some court documents a bit more, I came to the conclusion that Marsy's Law is effective on the criminal side of ND Courts, but not the civil side. The criminal offense and the civil orders are separate things, so I can see how this could be missed and need to be corrected. It can feel shameful and embarrassing to be put in a situation that would warrant a restraining order or an order of protection. The process of filing for a restraining order and an order of protection is already complicated and generally doesn't get granted unless a situation has become violent and/or life threatening. To have the ND Courts website expose victims is a violation of their privacy and could potentially put them in danger. I would urge this committee to pass this bill. In order to protect victims of violence, we must actually have laws in place that do that.

Thank you for your time

Jenn Bailey