

Ian Thomas Testimony

Members of the committee, my name is Ian Thomas, and I reside in Minot, North Dakota. I am in favor of Bill HB1121.

My parent's divorce began in 2017, and the after effects of it are still felt today.

For months I googled "how to protect your assets from someone else's divorce" and "can your assets be included in a divorce you are not a party of."

I invite you to do the same. I expect your results to be as futile as mine, as there are no clear laws or guidelines for what can or cannot be included in a divorce.

I researched these questions because my mother attempted to file a motion to include my own assets into my parents divorce because I rented the family farm equipment to farm my own land I owned or rented separately from the family farm. Everything I worked for, from childhood to adulthood, had now been in the hands of a single judge due to a dispute between two other adults and a lack of laws protecting my assets and me.

I have learned more about North Dakota laws, and spent more on attorneys than I ever cared to. This bill will not only protect family farms for generations to come, but protect the future generations! I would never wish what I've gone through for the past four years on anyone, and want to do everything in my power to prevent that. This bill allows me to do just that. I need to protect other young entrepreneurs, farmers, and children from the battles that come from divorce. It's unbelievable that a motion like that could have ever been dreamt to be filed, let alone officially filed in a court of law in North Dakota. I had no law, case law, or even a previous encounter of this ever happening to back me up. The courts need a clear path to follow rather than using their own discretion, which easily can be biased. I fought this blind and alone, and wish for this bill to pass to help prevent this from ever occurring in the future.

This bill will give both parties of a divorce their fair share of the marital estate while saving tax paying dollars in the courts, and heartache for the rest of the family involved.

Thank you to all members of the committee for hearing my story and considering the unfortunate events that can happen if this bill does not pass.

Respectfully,

Ian Thomas