



Representative Lindsey Holmes

House Bill 76 Sponsor Statement

"An Act relating to costs and fees for stalking and sexual assault protective orders."

House Bill 76 changes the law so that when a victim of stalking or sexual assault gets a protective order, the judge may order the perpetrator to pay any fees associated with the order. Obtaining a protective order can be a very difficult and confusing task. Adding fees or other costs in addition to the other difficulties involved seems inappropriate for a victim seeking safety from a perpetrator of sexual assault or stalking. HB 76 will ensure that the perpetrators of these crimes, and not the victims, will bear the cost of court protection.

There are two types of restraining orders a person can file for: domestic violence protective orders, or stalking and sexual assault protective orders. Right now, when a person petitions for a domestic violence restraining order, the court can require the perpetrator to pay fees associated with obtaining the protective order. However, this cannot currently be done with sexual assault and stalking protective orders that do not involve domestic violence. Victims of stalking and sexual assault should have the same protection as victims of domestic violence. HB 76 would close this gap, bringing parity to the protective order statutes.

The legislature recognized the difficulties in obtaining a protective order for victims of domestic violence when it included this fee provision in the domestic violence protective order statute. Unfortunately, this remedy was left out when the sexual assault and stalking protective order statute was adopted. Please join me in supporting HB 76, so we can extend this protection to the victims of sexual assault and stalking.