

Dear Chairman Claman and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I write to you today in full support of HB 75, also known as a Red Flags Law in other states. This law, if enacted, could literally save lives in Alaska.

After the horrific mass shooting in Florida last week, we learned that law enforcement visited the home of the multiple times, he had been expelled from three schools, exhibited a fascination with guns and killing people and even made threats that he would like to shoot people at the school. If Florida had had in place a law like HB 75, law enforcement or even this young man's family could have petitioned the court to remove the gun or guns from his possession since he posed a danger to himself and others. Florida has no such law at this time and although his behavior and threats were known to law enforcement, nothing could be done because no law is in place for such situations. As a result, 17 human beings lost their lives. It is a tragedy we have seen played out over and over again in this country, and we have the chance to do something with HB 75.

Unfortunately, our state has some of the highest incidences of gun deaths in the country. If HB 75 were enacted, a spouse who knows that their loved one is suicidal and has access to a gun could petition the court to remove the gun from the individual by obtaining a Gun Violence Restraining Order. This is not something that is done lightly and would not result in people having their guns taken away for no reason. The petitioner has to prove to a judge that there is an immediate risk to the life of the gun owner or those around him/her. These laws are in effect now in five states has been introduced in another 18 states.

With the number of shootings taking place in our country on a daily basis from mass shootings to suicide by gun, HB 75 would be a welcomed law to help combat the number of deaths by gun per year. After almost every mass shooting, people come forward with stories about the shooter and the odd and scary behavior he displayed prior to going on a killing spree. Even if HB 75 prevents one death by a gun, it's worth it.

I urge you to support and pass HB 75. Let's save some lives in Alaska.

Sincerely,
Michele Vasquez
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-940-5783

2.27.18

Dear Legislators,

I am who I am today because of December 1st, 1997. I am Rachel Gearhart, LCSW of Juneau and I am asking you to support HB75 in honor of Jessica James, Nicole Hadley, and Kayce Steger and many more who have died at the hands of gun violence.

On Monday, December 1, 1997, when I was a sophomore in high school, we were locked down in our 1st period class the first day back to school after Thanksgiving Break. As my Geometry classmates and I looked to each other and our teacher for answers, we were told to get under desks stay away from windows. A school shooting had occurred at Heath High School, another school in our county in western Kentucky. School officials initially worried there was an active shooter at the two other county schools too. I don't recall how long we were locked down, but our day was chaos after that with people trying to use the few pay phones in the school's hallways to call their friends that attended Heath, their parents, anyone they could think of - and just remember that the shooting hadn't even occurred at my school. Heath and my HS were as connected and close as Thunder Mountain and JDHS in Juneau.

On that day, just over 20 years ago, a 14-year-old boy named Michael Carneal brought 2 shotguns & 2 rifles; he'd stolen from his neighbor's garage and father; wrapped in blankets to school. He told the school resource officer they were for an art project. He ended up using only a .22 pistol he'd put, loaded, in his backpack - not an assault rifle - to fire a mere 8 shots into the group of students gathered before school started. He put in earplugs, and fired, some at point blank range. Three girls died and 5 more people were injured.

I'd met one of these girls at a Girl Scout father-daughter dance. Her mom was a nurse at the same hospital where my dad worked as a hospital chaplain. He was working when her daughter, the same age as me, came in to the hospital, shot by a peer, at school, and he was there when she died. My dad, an ordained minister, was asked to be a part of the joint funeral held for all three girls. All the county schools were dismissed for the day and we all stayed home and watched the televised service through tears and sobs. When my dad got home that day, all he could say was "I just kept imagining that was you. It could have been you."

Michael Carneal was bullied and a bit of an outcast. He didn't think his parents loved him. He asked the school principal who got him to surrender to kill him after he'd done it - a quote that's apparently similar to a school shooting from a movie he'd seen; Basketball Diaries. He'd been experiencing paranoia and was later diagnosed with schizophrenia. Look, I get it, what does this have to do with HB75? He didn't use an assault rifle, he stole legally owned guns that should have been secured by their owners. Maybe the violent video games he played, the Stephen King book he had in his locker and the movie Basketball Diaries are all to blame. He didn't feel loved by his family. Yes, yes, yes. Shootings like this are MULTI-FACETED. There is no ONE thing that will prevent them all, but we should not avoid doing ONE thing that can help.

We cannot do nothing, because on January 23, 2018, 20 years, one month, and 22 days after Michael Carneal killed three girls; another school shooting happened at Marshall County High School in the NEXT COUNTY over from where Heath and my high school are. Some of the same families have experienced more loss and heartache.

And while he did a terrible thing that took three lives and forever impacted many more, Michael is not pure evil. He admits that there wasn't one reason why he did what he did. He wasn't even looking at who he was shooting while doing it. He blamed himself for subsequent school shootings, including Columbine in 1999 and attempted suicide because of his guilt about maybe inspiring other shootings like that. He told people in direct and indirect ways that he needed help.

Michael told people in Kindergarten that he wanted to bring a gun for show and tell so that he could shoot people if they didn't like his presentation. He tried to sell a gun he stole from his parents in weeks before the shooting, but another student said he'd tell police if he didn't give him the gun. Michael told people that something big was going to happen on Monday, but no one believed him.

Empowering people to ask for help, voluntarily remove dangerous weapons from their possession while they seek help and treatment, and allowing them to have them back when the imminent risk is gone. Such legislation may have not changed this situation, but it can change the trajectory and future for someone else.

Thank you for listening. I realize that this was lengthy, but I hope that you're able to see that it was important to tell you enough about my experiences to help you understand why I would ask you to support HB75 - common sense legislation that can do ONE thing to possibly save MANY.

Thank you.
Rachel Gearhart
roach808@hotmail.com

Magdalena Oliveros

From: AKHOUSE.ORG <akhouse@akhouse.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 11:26 PM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr
Subject: You got a message "jean.cheng78@gmail.com"

From: Jean Cheng
Subject: jean.cheng78@gmail.com

Message Body:
Dear Representative Tarr,

My name is Jean Cheng and I am a Marjory Stoneman Douglas Alumni and also a permanent resident here in Eagle River, AK. In the wake of the tragedy at my high school, I've begun to realize the necessity of better gun control legislation in our state and country as a whole. You have sponsored a bill known as HB75 and I wholly support it. I thank you for taking initial steps to help curb senseless gun violence and its catastrophic toll on the community as a whole.

Because I do not have the extensive knowledge of the proposed bill and the AK legislative process as you, I'd like to ask a couple of questions regarding this bill?

1. It's my understanding that HB75 offers emergency protective orders in reference to gun violence. Does the bill cover only adults 18+ or do they apply to minors as well?
2. Does the bill cover a person under the influence or suspected influence of illegal drugs or alcohol?

I apologize if these are questions which should be directed elsewhere but commend you for sponsoring this bill. Thank you so much.

Warm regards,
Jean

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This e-mail was sent from Representative GERAN TARR's legislative website

Magdalena Oliveros

From: Callie Conerton <callieconerton@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 7:33 AM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr
Subject: HB75

Dear Representatives,

I am a young Alaskan who grew up hearing hunting stories from my brother and my friends. I have enjoyed many a dinner that has been provided for me due to the ability to hunt an animal with a gun. However I am also a teacher who has 19 students in my classroom. It is not in my contract to protect them from a person who has exhibited signs of threat or aggression that has access to a gun. I would protect the children in my classroom and in my school with my life - but I would rather law enforcement be able to remove those firearms from that individual while their behavior is not stable. People in Alaska love to hunt and shoot guns. I am well aware of that and enjoy skeet shooting myself. I understand the second amendment and the right people have of owning guns hopefully those who have the skills and stable mindset. It is when their ownership mixed with their current mental status that could create havoc makes me stop and want more protection. More protection for the Alaskans that cannot protect themselves as they were just planning on doing addition and doing a puzzle map that day. I will not ever carry a gun in my classroom. It is not safe for me or the students in that situation. Law enforcement are in training for months to protect us as citizens of the USA and Alaska in stressful, scary, and intense situations. How would I be expected to protect my classroom with couple of hours of training with a firearm while my 19 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders are freaking out as they are scared for their lives?

Please protect us by allowing law enforcement to remove guns from those who are not in the stable mindset to use them. Would you rather allow that person to exist with a firearm in an unhealthy mental state and possibly have lives taken or can you step up to the plate and recognize that mental health takes over people's body's and sane thoughts and support HB75.

Thank you,

Callie Conerton
District 33 citizen.

Sent from my iPhone

Magdalena Oliveros

From: Christy Lawton <christy.lawton@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 8:41 AM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr
Subject: Support for HB 75

Representative Tarr,

I wish to emphatically state my support for your proposed legislation. Gun violence in America has grown to such degrees it is eroding our collective sense of safety and well being, even in Alaska.

While I am not a gun owner myself, I do appreciate and believe in the Second Amendment. But, I do not believe the Second Amendment intended for the average citizen to own assault rifles that can kill dozens of people in minutes.

I recognize this legislation is not about banning assault style weapons but I do hope at some point our country will also take up that issue and make a change.

As the mother of the soon to be high school freshman and a middle schooler I can't tell you how concerned I am about their safety while they're at school. It is ludicrous that we live in one of the most advanced countries in the world but yet our children die every day going to a place that should be one of the safest places for them to be.

As a social worker I am deeply sympathetic and understanding of those who suffer from mental illness. The stigmas that are associated and the lack of mental health services in many of our communities, here and across the country, is a tragedy.

But, we simply aren't doing enough to ensure that people who are mentally unstable due to untreated or variable mental health conditions don't have access to weapons. Having the opportunity for someone to report an individual who may be experiencing a break or a severe fluctuation in their state of mind that could pose a danger to themselves or others is the right thing to do and I fully support.

Thank you!

Christine "Christy" Lawton
Anchorage, Alaska
House District 25/Senate District M

Sent from my iPhone

Dear House Judiciary Committee -

Please accept these comments on HB 75 which I hope to be able to present in person at the Anchorage Legislative Information Office at your hearing this afternoon.

I want to thank Representatives Tarr, Spohnholz, and Drummond for introducing HB 75, a common sense, preventative approach for one aspect of the gun violence in America that has needlessly torn apart and traumatized so many American families. Thank you to the House Judiciary Committee for this opportunity to testify.

As background, I am a nearly 39-year resident of Alaska. I took several gun safety courses during my career as a wildlife biologist, and my husband is a gun owner and avid hunter.

I urge the Committee and ultimately our Legislature to swiftly pass HB 75! This bill does not interfere with anyone's rights under the second amendment. Rather, it will provide a safety net to identify troubled Alaskans who own or have access to firearms, by notifying proper authorities, and then removing those firearms to keep those individuals, their loved ones, and innocent others safe until the troubled individual seeks help. Once a situation and an individual are considered stable, they would be able to regain their firearms.

Had a similar bill been in place a few years ago, it could have prevented the tragic situation of the Alaskan who flew to Florida and killed 5 innocent people. It could have prevented the recent horrible school shooting in Parkland, Florida. It could have prevented a number of suicides – a leading cause of death among young Alaskans; and it could have prevented much vicious domestic violence, including murders. And it would have prevented the significant injuries and enduring trauma experienced by so many others present at all of these events. Statistics show that Alaska has the highest rate of firearm deaths in the nation; most of those are suicides, and suicide by firearm is much deadlier than suicides attempted by other means. Bills similar to HB 75 have already been effectively implemented in several other states.

Bravo to the youth of America for pushing adults to do something about the issue of gun violence in America – an issue that is not a crisis in countless other countries with better vetting systems and controls on who owns guns. Bravo to Ariana O'Harra, the East High junior, who wrote an excellent Commentary in last Wednesday's Anchorage Daily News where she lamented that Alaska's students now spend more time preparing for a school shooting than for an earthquake. This is not a situation any of us should consider sane for our children.

One comment on specifics of the bill – I would suggest that the terms "foster parent" and "grandparents" be added to the list of immediate family members as it seems that those individuals may be the primary caregivers for troubled youths. Alternatively, we have seen several situations where they are the ones posing an immediate danger to vulnerable youth.

Please help save our children, save our spouses and partners, and save countless others, either those going through a difficult period or innocent bystanders, by voting YES on HB 75!

Sincerely,

Ann Rappoport

17053 Aries Court
Anchorage, AK 99516
907-230-3187 cell
agrappoport@gmail.com

Support for HB 75

Dear Legislators,

I have had many roles in my life; son, husband, Army Captain, son of a police officer are a few. In each of those roles, at different times throughout my life I have been very aware of safety. When I was a child it was the safety of my father when he was out on duty. I knew he had a dangerous and important job, and he taught us the importance of personal responsibility and taking responsibility for the safety of others. In the Army I used what I learned from my father to ensure that whether in boot camp, running a drill or in combat the safety of myself and my unit were forefront in my mind at all times.

As a husband and a father I am painfully aware of how easily and quickly my family could be taken from me. When I see on the news that another school shooting, or any mass shooting, has occurred it shakes me to the core how easily that could have been the ones I love most in the world. More than ever before, even when my Dad was on duty or being in an active combat zone, I am aware of how important personal safety and safety of others can be.

That is why I fully support HB75. When a person is in a crisis situation, whatever the reason, they are not thinking about the safety of themselves or others. All they see is their own pain or hurt or rage. This bill allows those around them, who know and love them, to ensure that they can't hurt anyone with their fire arm until they are stable. If the need arose where those closest to me felt it necessary to take away my firearms to protect my life or their lives I would hope this law would be there to assist them. Safety is a responsibility we all need to take seriously. It is a responsibility that we can't do alone. This bill would help those who are in the most need for safety to find help. As the son of a retired cop, a veteran and Captain in the army, a husband and father I put my faith in you to do what is right to keep Alaskans safe.

Thank you,
Jason Vukovich
Anchorage, AK 99516

Emails in Support of HB 75

From: Marian Leaf <marianleaf@yahoo.com>

Date: Mon, Mar 12, 2018 at 1:36 PM

Subject: Re: HB75 Gun Violence Protection

I am fully in agreement with passing this bill that will allow families and police to remove guns from a violent person or someone in danger of hurting self or others. As a state, we have one of the highest rates of suicide, gun violence is on the rise and even in the villages, gun shootings are becoming more prevalent.

Please support this bill. Thank you.

Marian Leaf

Aniak, AK

Hello,

My name is Kasey Casort, and I support HB 75. I am nineteen years old, and a student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I was six months old when the Columbine school shooting took so many young peoples' lives, and I was in middle school when the children in Sandy Hook Elementary School were massacred. There were nearly 300 school shootings while I was in high school alone. Now I'm a Freshman at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and it's time for students like me to stop fearing for our lives every time we enter a classroom. This is common sense legislation, and I hope you'll pass it out of committee and vote YES once it gets to the floor. Thank you for your time, and thank you for supporting common sense gun legislation.

Best,

Kasey Casort

870 Pickering Dr.

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Dear Representative Tarr,

I am writing in support of HB 75 (Gun Violence Protective Orders).

This law would be a tool to empower families and law enforcement to remove guns from individuals experiencing an elevated risk of endangering themselves or others. It is temporary in nature and limited in scope to crisis situations. This legislation doesn't infringe on the Second Amendment. The individual can retrieve their firearms when the high-risk behavior is no longer a threat.

California, Indiana, Connecticut, Oregon, and Washington have established these orders, and 18 other states are considering similar measures. It's time to pass common-sense public safety legislation in Alaska.

Several years ago, a family friend took his own life using a firearm, and I wish such a law had been in place then. Had it been, our friend might still be with us today.

Thank you for your time.

Lauren Attanas
4975 Kathys Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Dear Representative Claman and Judicial Committee Members,

I am writing as a life long Alaskan who grew up in a rural community with guns in our home for hunting and outdoor protection. I am not anti-gun. I am however, pro-gun control and our state is far behind on implementing reasonable gun control. HB75 is an important step in helping the residents of our state be safer and I hope you will pass this bill out of your committee quickly and continue to support it through the legislative process.

Being able to restrict someone who is a risk to themselves or others, from having access to their gun(s) is a reasonable and prudent approach. We know many Alaskan houses have guns in them. We also know that our state has some of the highest rates of domestic violence and suicide in the country. If we choose to ignore these facts in favor of the NRA's deeply held belief that guns should not be subject to any sort of control, make no mistake, we are putting the wishes of the NRA over the safety of our citizens. Right now, we have an opportunity to make a positive change, you have the power to make a positive change.

Please, put Alaskans before guns. Put our safety before guns. The decision you make here matters. Ask yourself, if someone you loved was struggling with depression, would you want them to have easy access to a gun? This impacts all of us. There is a right and a wrong answer here. Get it right. We need you to get it right.

Sincerely,

Jorden Nigro
Juneau

Greetings:

I wanted to let you know that I whole-heartedly support HB 75, that would provide for gun violence protective orders.

Please do what you can to make this part of Alaska law.

Thank you.

Larri Spengler

Larri Irene Spengler
4545 Thane Road
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907-586-9768 (phone/fax)
lspengler@ak.net

Thank you for sponsoring this bill, I truly hope that Alaska can move forward on gun safety.

For the future, as a parent and a retired teacher I oppose having any guns in our schools.

Sincerely,
Brenda Loughman
1737 Second Avenue
Ketchikan, AK

Dear legislators,

Gun violence is a scourge on our country and brings death, despair, and fear to our citizens. It is time for common sense on the topic of gun safety. Too often, conflict, real or imagined, leads to deadly use of firearms. People, whether through illness or inclination, have begun to kill one another rather than resort to peaceful attempts at resolution. It has to stop. One more life taken, by senseless gun violence, is too many.

Preventing further harm, especially to our children, is imperative. I beg of you, and your fellow legislators, to pass HB 75 and to continue to seek further means of protecting the people you serve.

Please share with your colleagues as they prepare to vote on the above mentioned piece of legislation.

Sincerely,
Terri Robbins
Ketchikan, AK

I strongly support this sensible gun control legislation. Thank you Rep Tarr. I sincerely hope the popular support that is undeniable all over the country, even in wild-west Alaska, for regulations that value the lives of our children over the shameful attachment to the "right" to squeeze off a few rounds at the gun range.

As you know, there are multiple steps to gun ownership in all other first world countries. The rhetoric around 2nd amendment is literally killing innocent citizens every day in the US.

Sincerely
Dr. Emily A. Kane
Juneau

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for bringing forth HB 75. Since Alaska has the highest rate of gun killings, well above any other US state, HB 75 is a common sense measure to address some critical Alaskan issues of gun violence.

As someone who worked with Alaskans who experience a chronic mental illness, this is an excellent action when someone goes off their medications and presents as a danger to themselves or others; or

for someone whose illness is in early onset and they are just learning how to cope with the symptoms and how distraught they can feel.

And as we all know, people with chronic mental illness are no more likely to commit a violent act than anyone else. HB 75 will give law enforcement a important tool to use when anyone appears suicidal or homicidal.

This measure really makes sense for Alaska where the majority of Alaskans own guns, and we have such a high suicide rate. Especially as our state economy worsens, the suicide rate goes up.

There is really no good reason not to pass this measure. We can show the nation that we are taking steps to solve our gun violence problem.

Thank you for your work on gun safety for Alaska.

Sincerely,

Lin Davis
3099 Nowell Ave
Juneau, AK 99801

I am in support of HB 75. I think it is a step in the right direction. Anything that can be done to reduce the number of mass shootings in our state is important.

Deborah Johnson
1110 Slim Williams Way
Juneau, AK 99801

Representative Tarr,

I am in full support of HB 75. I was born and raised in Alaska and have since moved to Los Angeles for a legal career. In the news recently, Tyler Bateman (an Alaska resident) was arrested for making bomb and death threats against his grandfather's business and peace officers. When I was 16, I dated Tyler Bateman. I recall several instances where Bateman made threats on his life or made thinly-veiled threats to others. On one occasion I had to call the police to do a welfare check because he was threatening to kill himself. These are quintessential 'red flags' that I wish more could have been done about. Bateman had access to weapons and should not have. Luckily, nothing more than threats ever occurred, but if he had ever followed through, this bill could have prevented the harm.

I wholeheartedly support protecting my family who still resides in Alaska by passing this bill.

Best,

Sable Hodson
Tel: (907) 301-2656
Email: sable.hodson@gmail.com

Dear Representative Tarr,

As a responsible gun owner who enjoyed participation on my high school rifle team, I support your House Bill 75. Similarly as I've taken keys from a friend who was too inebriated to drive and whose vehicle could be a lethal weapon, I support removing guns from individuals who are in danger of hurting themselves or others. And just as those car keys were returned when the friend was no longer inebriated, I support the temporary nature and limit in scope of this law that allows the individual to retrieve his/her firearms when the high-risk behavior is no longer a threat. Thank you for this common-sense approach.

Sincerely,

Tam Agosti-Gisler
tamag@gci.net

To: Representative Geran Tarr
From: Kami Howlett, Anchorage resident (99516)
February 24, 2018

Dear Representative Tarr,

I am writing today in strong support of the proposed bill HB 75 to establish Gun Violence Protection Orders (GVPOs) in Alaska. This will empower families and law enforcement to remove guns from individuals experiencing an elevated risk of harming themselves or others.

Gun Violence Protective Orders are a critical tool to preventing Gun Violence before it happens because they empower families to intervene when they see the signs of violent behavior and a person in crisis. When there is documented evidence that a person is threatening to harm themselves or others, families and law enforcement can petition a court to temporarily suspend that person's access to firearms.

This GVPO will allow our law enforcement to temporarily remove firearms from individuals where there is probable cause to believe that they are at a significant risk of harm to themselves or others. They also create safer circumstances for at-risk individuals to seek treatment, counseling, or other resources to help address the causes of the dangerous and threatening behaviors.

I support HB 75 and I urge its swift passage. It is time to pass common sense public safety legislation in Alaska. Thank you for your commitment to keeping the people of this great state safe and preventing gun violence before it happens.

Sincerely,

Kami Howlett
11500 Tanglewood Lakes Circle, Anchorage, AK 99516
khowlett@gci.net

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 1:37 PM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Oppose New Gun Control

Dear Representative Geran Tarr:

As a constituent, I am writing to express my strong opposition to any new gun control that would only impact law-abiding gun owners. Punishing law-abiding gun owners for the acts of criminals is flat out

wrong and won't solve any of the mental health and behavioral problems that we desperately need to do something about. Please stand strong in support of the Second Amendment and oppose all gun control schemes such as waiting periods, age restrictions to purchase firearms, gun bans, ammunition bans, bans on magazines, and other senseless legislation that would not have stopped this horrific event and won't stop the next one.

Doing nothing is not an option, but doing something that won't fix the problem and blames law-abiding gun owners shouldn't be an option either. Please support and focus on legislation to protect our schools and our school communities, as well as fix our broken mental health system.

I look forward to your response and will consider your votes on these important issues the next time I vote at the polls. Thank you.

Sincerely,
David Andrews
3534 Parsons Ave
Anchorage, AK 99508-1125

Dear Representative Geran Tarr,

States across the country are stepping up to take action and pass common-sense Red Flag Laws — Alaska should be next.

Alaska's Red Flag legislation creates a gun violence protective order (GVPO), a kind of court order that family members and law enforcement can request from a judge to temporarily restrict a person's access to guns because that person poses a significant danger to self or others.

This is a common-sense policy that can help prevent gun violence before it's too late — whether suicide, domestic violence, or tragedies like the recent mass shooting in Parkland, Florida.

When family members are empowered to act, they can prevent warning signs from turning into a mass shooting or gun suicide.

Please support HB 75 to make Alaskans safer from preventable gun violence.

Sincerely,

Karen, constituent in 99508

Seth Beausang
8600 Pluto Drive
Anchorage, AK 99507

BY EMAIL

February 27, 2018

The Honorable Representative Matt Claman
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
Alaska Legislature
State Capitol Room 118
Juneau AK, 99801
Representative.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov

Dear Representative Claman:

I understand the Alaska House Judiciary Committee will hear HB 75 on Wednesday, February 28, 2018. Having reviewed this bill, I urge you and your committee members to support it.

I have lived in Alaska for 7 years, have two small children, and plan to be here forever. I am proud to live in a state that so cherishes and depends on the right to keep and bear arms. Yet, I have spoken to so many Alaskans, especially those with children, and especially recently, who agree that urgent action is needed to address gun violence in the United States. I agree with those who say that ending this national tragedy requires action on many fronts—clearly among the needed actions are new laws that will help keep guns away from dangerous people.

HB 75 draws the appropriate balance between protecting the rights of Alaskans to keep and bear arms, and protecting the rights of Alaskans to go about our daily lives without fear that we or our children may be the next victims of gun violence. Under this bill, to temporarily take away a person's gun a judge would have to find by clear and convincing evidence that a person is dangerous, or if the matter is an emergency by a preponderance of the evidence. When there is strong evidence that a person is a danger to themselves or others, we urgently need the government's help to temporarily keep guns away from such a person and to keep our families safe. This bill provides a commonsense response to the gun violence epidemic sweeping the nation and our state.

Please support this commonsense bill.

Respectfully,

/s/ Seth Beausang

Seth Beausang

cc: Diana.Rhoades@akleg.gov

Lizzie Kubitz

From: Rep. Matt Claman
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 2:52 PM
To: House Judiciary
Subject: FW: Judiciary Hearing for HB 75

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: KReardon [mailto:reardonscher@gci.net]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 2:22 PM
To: Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millet@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky <Rep.Tiffany.Zulkosky@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>
Subject: Judiciary Hearing for HB 75
Importance: High

To the Members of the Alaska House Judiciary Committee,
CC Representative Lance Pruitt and Geran Tarr

I am writing to you in strong support of HB 75 which creates a GVPO system here in Alaska. I did try to call in today for your committee hearing-However, you were delayed in session and I am not available to speak tonight.

As a retired teacher, and someone who has been following the gun ownership rights and gun reform debate for many years, I am a strong advocate for this kind of proactive legislation. This is the kind of common sense legislation that I also support on a national level. HB 75 does not provide the total answer to our current mass shooting crisis in this country-However, it is a step in the right direction. Many (not all) of the last mass shooting tragedies might have been avoided because there had been "tips" coming in from family and law enforcement personnel on potential concerns with the "shooters". With all the focus again going to the school venue for a possible shooting after the Valentine's Day mass shooting at Parkland, we seem to forget the other horrific shootings that have not been at schools-but at concerts, churches, and movie theaters. I feel we are wasting precious time talking about "arming teachers" when there are broader safety and gun reform measures-like HB 75- that would address possible gun violence at any place. Please support this approach to making our state and country a safer place to pursue life.

Kerry Reardon
907-338-1183 hm
907-952-0507 cell
reardonscher@gci.net

Lizzie Kubitz

From: Rep. Matt Claman
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 8:09 AM
To: House Judiciary
Subject: FW: Please vote NO on Concealed Carry reciprocity, and YES on HB 75!!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

-----Original Message-----

From: Chuck Livers and Joan Stassel [mailto:cjlivers@gci.net]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 10:42 PM
To: Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please vote NO on Concealed Carry reciprocity, and YES on HB 75!!

Dear Rep. Claman,

I am emailing to express my concern about all the gun violence we have had over the past several years. We need to make some changes!

Please vote NO on Concealed Carry reciprocity as it overrides individual state's laws. And please vote YES on HB 75 which would provide protection from people deemed dangerous to themselves or to others.

Sincerely,

Joan Stassel, Alaskan constituent and super voter

Lizzie Kubitz

From: Rep. Matt Claman
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 8:10 AM
To: House Judiciary
Subject: FW: Letter - HB 75

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Madeline Scholl [mailto:madelineamber3@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 8:08 PM
To: Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>
Subject: Letter - HB 75

Madeline Scholl
Anchorage, AK 99501
House District 20

BY EMAIL

March 12, 2018

The Honorable Representative Matt Claman
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
Alaska Legislature
State Capitol Room 118
Juneau AK, 99801
Representative.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov

Dear Representative Claman:

I am writing as a concerned Alaskan, local Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and Everytown for Gun Safety volunteer, and Sandy Hook Promise supporter, to express my support for HB 75 – an act relating to Gun Violence Protection Orders – that could save Alaskan lives.

I would like to address some of the questions and concerns expressed by members of the Committee during the last hearing of HB 75 on February 28, 2018, and during conversations at the Anchorage Caucus at UAA on March 3, 2018:

- Even after removing access to firearms, the respondent will find another method to do harm. Why limit it to firearms? Why not also remove pills, cars, sharp objects, anything they could kill themselves or others with?

Answer: FACT - Reducing a suicidal person's access to firearms can save their life. Nine out of ten suicide attempts with a gun result in death. By contrast, most people who attempt suicide by other means survive—and do not eventually die by suicide. **Access to a firearm triples the risk of death by suicide.**

(See Owens D, Horrocks J, and House A. *Fatal and non-fatal repetition of self-harm: systematic review*. British Journal of Psychiatry. 2002;181:193-199 and Anglemeyer A, Horvath T, Rutherford G. *The*

Accessibility of Firearms and Risk for Suicide and Homicide Victimization Among Household Members: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. Ann Intern Med. 2014;160:101–110. doi: 10.7326/M13-1301.)

A 2017 study of Connecticut's Red Flag Law found that the law has already averted an estimated 72 or more suicides.

(See Swanson JW, Norko M, Lin H, Alanis-Hirsch K, Frisman L, Baranoski M, Easter M, Robertson AG, Swartz M, and Bonnie RJ. *Implementation and effectiveness of Connecticut's risk-based gun removal law: does it prevent suicides?* Law and Contemporary Problems. 2017; 80: 179-208.)

- If the Order removes access to firearms from one person in household, what about other people in household?

Answer: Other gun owners in the household ought to be **responsible gun owners** and secure their firearms so that the person in crisis cannot access them.

- How do we know we got all the guns?

Answer: We don't. But this does not mean there should be NO attempt at all to remove the firearms from the vulnerable person's access.

- Judges are not qualified to give mental health evaluations.

Answer: CORRECT. But they CAN evaluate evidence, and make a decision based on the clear and convincing evidence standard that someone IS a risk to themselves or others and issue an EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER that would TEMPORARILY remove the firearms currently in the respondent's possession and bar legal access to other firearms.

The prevention of gun violence is a complicated and multi-faceted issue, coupled with maintaining the Second Amendment rights of each individual. HB 75 balances the interests of public safety and Second Amendment rights.

I thank the Committee for hearing all of the testimony on this important piece of legislation, and for continuing to work with the sponsor and co-sponsors to get it passed and help save lives.

Respectfully,

Madeline Scholl
Alaskan resident for 28 years (cummulative)

Barbara Learmonth - phone 209-1783

Valley House District – 40 years

Speaking in support of HB75

You've heard lots of good expert testimony and research, but I'm here to speak for myself and my family. *live with fear w/o gun. reg*

My husband is a teacher here. About 3 weeks ago, after the Florida school massacre, he told me with tears in his eyes that he doesn't think it's a question of whether we have a school shooting in Juneau – it's a question of when. And I knew, even before he said it, that if he's there when it happens he will die protecting his students – not with a gun, but with his body and his courage and his resourcefulness. He doesn't believe schools would be safer if teachers carried guns, and neither do I. ~~But I don't~~ *But he doesn't know if he will survive*

About 1 week ago I left my office at lunch without taking my cell phone. When I came back the office was locked and dark, and my 2 co-workers and supervisor were gone. I knew immediately that sometime bad had happened. I checked my phone and found a message – “come back right away. Your co-worker has suffered a personal tragedy.” No details. My first thought was for my co-worker's 2 grandkids in town – that either the 2yoa had a serious accident or illness, or the 12yoa was shot at the middle school. Thank God neither of those turned out to be true, but it's pretty awful that that's how my mind works now.

Last year I watched a TV nature show where a little ground squirrel was playing with her babies. Suddenly she was on high alert because she smelled a snake approaching. The narrator said “she knows what she has to do.” She herded the babies into their underground nest and then stood her ground between this enormous snake and her babies. Each time the snake struck, she jumped out of the way. But each time she came back. She never backed down, she never gave up, and eventually the snake left.

MST Fear
I think perhaps we now have enough moms and dads and young people and grandparents and teachers and social workers and police officers and many many others who aren't going to back down and aren't going to give up until we have common sense gun regulation.

This Wednesday I will be with the JDHS students marching at 10:00am from their school to the Capital steps to honor the memory of those killed in the Florida school massacre. I am so proud of them for showing us what good citizenship looks like. I hope that all of you will be on the steps telling the students that you are proud of them too, and that you will take a step towards protecting them by supporting HB75.

Thank you.

Marjorie

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Marjorie Menzi
RE: HB75
March 12, 2018

As a retired social studies educator, mother of five children and grandmother of 12, I have had a very strong emotional response to the years of school shootings and the death of children by gun fire. For the past 5 years, since the Sandy Hook School shooting in December 2012, I have been a supporter of the Brady Campaign to reduce gun violence in the US. My concern with gun violence in our society became very personal three years ago when a friend, a former Juneau resident's teenaged grandson, was shot to death in Atlanta, Georgia, while attending a HS football game. No one was ever charged with his murder.

I support HB75 and applaud the sponsors for taking this small step to address gun violence in Alaska—and I hope that this is just a FIRST step.

HB75 raises some questions in my mind which perhaps will be addressed by regulations and which have been answered to the satisfaction of the committee members.

- What happens with the central registry of protective orders maintained by the Dept. of Public Safety? Who can access these orders? Are they quickly accessible by Village Public Safety Officers (VPSOs), federal and state safety officers? (Page 2, Lines 27-28)
- Is there any correlation between the reports to the Dept. of Health and Social Services and that given to the Dept. of Public Safety? (Page 7, Lines 22-31) What is the purpose of this report?
- Will an emotionally unstable person who has been ordered to surrender or sell firearms and announces his/her intention to do the latter, be in a situation to go wild with firearms during the next 24 hrs. feeling under the pressure to make use of the weapons? Do we have data on how other states handle implementation of protective orders? (Page 4, Lines 4-6; Page 5 5-6)
- "Less restrictive alternatives" have not been defined. (Page 4, Lines 13-14)

Regarding the next steps needed by our legislature and by Congress—

I concur with the recommendation of the emergency room psychiatrist, Amy Barnhorst, who has testified before this committee. She is quoted in the NY Times as saying "it is important to put some distance between young men and their guns.". One way to do that is to raise the age of legal carry to 21 years which is what Florida has just done. We need to stop the sale of guns at gun shows which happen without background checks, ban bump stocks and the sale of automatic weapons. We also need to have a comprehensive, easily accessible national data base for background checks.

The NRA has created an environment of fear to justify the sale of assault weapons to ordinary citizens and has bankrolled Congressional campaigns to ensure that its positions regarding gun availability prevail in the U.S We need substantive action by our state legislature and by Congress to ensure the safety of Alaskans and all Americans.

Thank you for your consideration of my views and concerns.

Marjorie Menzi--6000 Thane Road, Juneau, AK 99801; 907-586-1714