

HB 75 – Supporting Document – Emails sent to Rep. Geran Tarr 2.27.18

From: maria crawford [<mailto:mariacraw4d@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 3:24 PM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for H.B. 75

Dear Representative Tarr,

Thank you for offering a concrete way towards progress against gun violence by creating H.B. 75, an extreme risk protection order bill for our great state of Alaska.

I support this bill because it would create a way, not only for law enforcement and medical health professionals, but family members as well, to report concerns about potentially dangerous situations and temporarily remove firearms from the situation. The ability to temporarily remove firearms from the equation would allow time and breathing space for the necessary help to be attained for all involved. H.B. 75 would help to save Alaskan lives and families from acts of gun violence, in the public realm as well as in the private, against others and for those at risk of self-harm.

Again, thank you for working towards a solution!

Sincerely,

Maria Crawford
907.250.6224

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

From: Bill & Debby [<mailto:nushagak@gci.net>]
Sent: Saturday, February 17, 2018 8:14 AM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 75

Thank you for introducing HB 75. Would be nice to ban semi automatic as well, but this is a great start to address gun violence. I'm a gun owner and hunter. I'm not afraid of regulation, definitely afraid of some gun owners! Saw someone walking into Fred Meyer on Dimond a month ago with a gun holstered on his hip. Was glad I was walking out. Very unnerving.

Good work-

Debby

Deborah Tennyson
907-317-7890
Sent from my iPad

From: Jillian Simpson [<mailto:jilliandsimpson@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, February 17, 2018 3:46 PM
To: Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman

<Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 75

Dear Representative Claman and members of House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in support of HB75- Gun Violence Protective Orders. Like most people, I am horrified by the mass shootings happening across the country. Every morning, when I drop my daughter off at school I wonder if there will be a shooter there. These fears have only been reinforced this week. I try to push it out of my mind and assume she will be ok, but in reality, the only thing being proactively done are drills at school to teach her to throw things at an intruder. We know this is not effective. Nothing gives me comfort that it won't happen here. Alaska has the highest rate of gun deaths per capita in the country and the highest rate of domestic violence. This is unacceptable to me as an Alaskan - and as a mother.

Fortunately, you are in a position to do something and there is an existing bill to consider. Please pass this legislation which would empower people closest to someone who may be expressing violent tendencies to report them to law enforcement and remove their access to guns. There is abounding evidence that restricted access to guns reduces gun violence- and saves lives. We have been asked if we see something to say something. This is one small step our state can take to keep our kids a little safer.

This will be a powerful tool to reduce gun violence as well as suicide. Please give families and law enforcement to ability to remove firearms from someone until they are no longer a threat to themselves or our community.

I hope you will hold a hearing on this bill and pass it this session. Thank you.

Jillian Simpson
Anchorage 99516

From: Deirdre Aldridge [mailto:deirdrealdridgeope@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2017 5:25 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <sen.shelley.hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Representative.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.com; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>
Subject: Gun legislation

The time for conversations, many conversations, about reasonable gun legislation is now. Right now when 58 people have been murdered and over 500 wounded. The time was before this when the Pulse nightclub massacre happened. The time was when over 20 school children were murdered in their classroom with gun violence. The time was the Columbine shootings. Each time gun nuts say "This is not the time!" because it is very much the time and they don't want gun laws to change. The NRA is wholly unreasonable in it's opposition to any kind of gun legislation. There is an amendment (the Dickey Amendment) to prevent gun violence being studied by the CDC! This is so the American people will not know the full extent of the death, damage and potential damage of allowing the current permissive gun

laws to stand. The NRA campaigns ferociously to keep America ignorant of the damage they and lax gun laws do. People are calling them a terrorist organization. The NRA has brought a great deal of influence to bear on who gets elected in America with campaign contributions. After the mass shooting in Las Vegas Sunday all of America is asking why we can't have working gun laws, or indeed reasonable gun legislation of any kind! Other countries do not have the same amount of sheer, out-and-out mass gun murders as America. There is NO NEED for high-capacity magazines. There is NO NEED for semi-assault rifles. There is NO NEED for bump stocks. Why does the Dickey Amendment, which prevents the CDC from studying this kind of injury and death, exist? The NRA is indirectly and perhaps directly responsible for these many recurring mass shootings and gun violence deaths and the fact that the CDC cannot even study gun violence, which is truly ridiculous and to me seems criminal. Here in Alaska we think of ourselves as responsible gun owners, and we are proud of this. Most of the country (by poll) wants reasonable gun laws and Alaskans are no exception. People who say any gun control is a violation of our second amendment rights are simply incorrect. The Founding Fathers never envisioned anything like the weapons we have today, and they never envisioned a government so uncaring about individual citizen's lives as to allow them to be mowed down in a crowd by a madman with a semi-automatic weapon. Please enact legislation outlawing semi-automatic weapons, high-capacity magazines and bump stocks. Please do whatever is necessary to allow the CDC to study the gun violence that effects us all.

Thank you from a life-long Alaskan and 2nd Amendment proponent, Deirdre Aldridge-Pope

From: john sonin [<mailto:sojohn61@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 9:55 AM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>
Subject: Gun-a-copia

From: N Burrows [<mailto:nburrows@alaska.net>]
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 1:19 AM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>
Subject: Pass Gun Violence Restraining Order Legislation

I'm writing to urge you to pass gun violence restraining order (GVRO) legislation in our state. With GVRO laws in place, judges could temporarily prevent those displaying warning signs of gun violence from having access to firearms.

Recognizing warning signs and having laws in place to take immediate action would help prevent tragedies before they occur. Without GVROs, these warning signs go unanswered, leading to mass shootings, suicides and communities and families being torn apart.

Please don't delay – pass GVRO legislation to protect our children and communities from gun violence.

N Burrows
608 N Klevin
Anchorage, AK 99508

From: Robert M. Heide Jr. [<mailto:heide.robert@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 7:01 AM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 75 Letter of Support

Good morning Representative Tarr-

I am writing in support of HB 75. I believe it is an appropriate and necessary first step to protect the lives of Alaskans. It is clear something must be done to curb the violence we see nearly every day. Allowing the Court the power to make these determinations is an acceptable balance to preserve due process as well as the safety of our citizens.

Thank you for your time.

Robert Heide

Juneau, AK

From: Laurie Hueffer [<mailto:l.hueffer@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 7:07 AM

To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB75

Dear Representatives,

I speak as a teacher on the front line. A front line I don't feel should exist.

I support your efforts to end gun violence through reinstatement of the assault weapon ban and other regulatory efforts to bring the United States in line with all other developed countries who have successfully reduced and all but eliminated mass shootings through regulation.

I support and encourage registries, assault weapon bans, background checks and limited ammunition sales.

I also support measures indicated in HB 75 though I don't feel these measures go far enough to protect our students and I encourage you to submit and enact legislation that addresses issues mentioned above.

I vote and I am watching alongside our children,

Laurie Hueffer

2/19/2018

Dear Representative Tarr:

I am writing in support of HB75 and your attempts to make a dent in the issue of gun violence in Alaska. Thank you for bringing this important issue to the legislature. I encourage you to take this issue even further, though, and work on a complete ban of assault weapons in the State of Alaska. Please consider amending this bill to also include a full ban of assault weapons.

Our national government has failed us again and again after each tragic and preventable mass murder that has occurred in this country by not acting to prevent another horrific assault. It seems the baton is being passed to the States to do something. So let this great State of Alaska be the first to act in a big way! No person outside of the military needs to own an assault weapon. No one. These

weapons are designed for one thing: to kill lots of people very quickly. They are not toys or hunting tools, they are instruments for killing and they have no place in a civil society.

I do support your efforts with HB75, but also ask that you please be brave and stand up against the strong, but wrong, NRA and work towards an all-out ban on assault weapons in Alaska as part of this bill or as your next bill.

Thank you,
Emmy Zartman
Life-long Alaskan
State House District 25/Abbott Loop

From: April Wisebaker [<mailto:arwisebaker@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 11:26 PM

To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 75 Letter of Support

Representative Tarr-

I am in full support for HB 75. This bill is a great step for responsible gun ownership by enabling those with knowledge of a person's threat of violence to inform those who have the authority to restrict access to violent weapons as necessary. If passed, the rate of violent crimes in the state will be reduced, making our great state a safer place to live. Please vote for the passage of HB 75.

Thanks and regards,

April R Wisebaker
2110 E 56th Ave, Apt G102
Anchorage, AK 99507
(Constituent of Rep. Andy Josephson)

From: Charlie & Jamie Rodriguez [<mailto:cjrodriguez@ak.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 4:26 AM

To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>

Subject: WE SUPPORT HB75!!

Dear Representative Tarr,

We're writing to you from District 28 in Anchorage to thank you for sponsoring HB75, Gun Violence Protective Orders. Our family is pleased to see a bill like this! We wholeheartedly support it and we support your efforts to get it passed. This can't happen fast enough!

With all of today's insanity over guns and the ridiculous politicizing that blocks a logical means to avoid problems and create safety nets, it's time to finally get something done for the well being of our communities. This is a more than reasonable and purely logical bill that will do much help to keep all Alaskans safe. Only a fool would oppose this bill!

Thanks so much, not only for this bill, but also for all of your good work on behalf of the people of Alaska. You are an amazing leader!

Sincerely,
Charlie, Jamie, & Lacey Rodriguez
District 28

Anchorage, AK

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

From: b f [<mailto:40belowinkalaska@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 9:12 AM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 75

I am writing in support of HB75.

Izzy Farris
Anchorage Ak 99504

From: Malena Marvin [<mailto:malena.marvin@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 9:51 AM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>
Subject: We support HB 75

Hello and thank you to Rep. Tarr,

I am grateful to you for having the courage to introduce this legislation. HB 75 is a good starting point.

Last week we had some young people here in Petersburg caught on video in a disturbing case of animal cruelty. The young man is also an avid shooter. I found myself wondering, if he has demonstrated a willingness to brutally and illegally kill animals, should he have the privilege of gun ownership? Should we hear from psychologists and teachers to learn more about his behavior?

I'm not sure if animal cruelty is part of this bill, but I think the evidence is there to link crimes against animals to future violence against humans.

In any event, I am glad you are pursuing this. Please don't back down. We are gun owners ourselves who understand that gun ownership is a privilege like driving, a privilege which can and should be revoked if you've clearly demonstrated that you pose a risk to others.

Malena Marvin
PO Box 1611
Petersburg, AK 99833

From: Mary Ann Holmquist [<mailto:holmquis@mtaonline.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 10:27 AM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB75

Representative Tarr,

I support you in a push for a hearing on HB 75. Gun violence in the state of Alaska is a concern of mine. I am a gun owner. Our family is traditionally a hunting family but this bill is about keeping people safe from guns.

Mary Ann Holmquist, Palmer, Alaska

From: Lizzie Thompson [<mailto:thompsonthree@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 3:50 PM

To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB75

Thank you for supporting HB75.

It is a start.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Thompson

PO Box 1631

Petersburg, AK 99833

907-772-2775

From: Chelsea Lindquist [<mailto:chelselin@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 5:19 PM

To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support HB 75

In the 20 years since the Columbine High School shooting "Thoughts and prayers" have proven to be useless in preventing nearly 400 school shootings. It is time for states to take action and protect our children from gun violence.

The first step in protecting the innocent from being the next victims of gun violence is to make sure those who pose a threat are unable to access a gun. Sadly, Alaska has one of the highest rates of domestic violence in the nation, and women are killed by husband/boyfriend/ex'es at an alarming rate. We can do something to lower our death rate and making women safer by ensuring that their abusers can't go into any store and buy a gun.

This bill isn't the answer to all gun problems. As gun law critics like to say, "if they want to kill someone they will." This may be true. However, we can make it as hard as possible for a person who is known to be mentally ill, violent, abusive or threatening to get a gun. If the killer in Florida last week had a knife would he have been able to kill 17 people before being disarmed? Would the shooter in Las Vegas been able to kill over 50 people in a matter of minutes if he was using a bow and arrow?

We need to be looking at the cause of this violence and how to help people before they decide to go on a shooting spree. But while we're waiting for that to happen I plead with you to protect our state from being the next mass shooting statistic by passing HB 75 and keeping deadly firearms out of the hands of those who we KNOW are dangerous.

Thank you,
Chelsea Vukovich
Anchorage, Ak

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

From: Chris & Kathleen [<mailto:wcjones@mtaonline.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 8:15 AM

To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>

Subject: Gun Control

Rep. Tarr: As a gun owner, and fellow Alaskan I understand the "glaring" need for better gun control. Please do your best to support HB75. These are crazy times, but we don't need to make them crazier through political inaction. Pass HB75. thank you,

--wayne jones, palmer, 99645

From: Emily Becker [<mailto:emilyandzeke@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 9:15 PM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 75

Greetings Geran,

Thank you for sponsoring House bill 75. We have so much work ahead of us to reduce gun violence in America, and I appreciate you moving the conversation forward with this bill. Any conversation is better than the deafening silence we have now. I hope your efforts are successful and please let me know what I can do to help.

Thank you,

Emily Becker
Anchorage

I support Hb 75

Please save our children from gun violence and death. I am sickened by the length that our representatives will go to keep their job in the Alaska legislature. Their loss of a moral compass and the willingness to let our children die in the name Of selling guns for profit is cruel and violent in itself.

Joan Diamond
Anchorage

Dear Representative,

I am writing in strong support of HB 75. This bill allows law enforcement to remove firearms from individuals experiencing a crisis or who have become a danger to self or others.

I am the Medical Director of the Emergency Department in Homer and have worked as an Emergency Physician for 35 years. In my experience I have cared for many hundreds of patients in crisis and the danger they present to themselves and society is very real. 18 school shootings already this year are all too real examples of this.

This and more stringent legislation is sorely needed but this is a good start and I hope it passes unanimously. I applaud your efforts and again, I strongly support HB 75.

Hal Smith MD
Homer, Alaska

Rep Tarr, I am writing this letter to support your Gun Violence Protection Orders Law, HB 75. To me this bill is the first common sense law that has been proposed to help stop the devastation caused by guns in our country. This law is about being able to protect loved ones when they are seen to be in a mentally depressed state (suicide prevention) and police being able to prevent a disaster when some suspicious activities are reported. This law only prevents

the ownership of guns after a fair hearing is met and is only on a temporary basis until the person is deemed safe. I have seen and heard of way too many families who have suffered because their loved ones had access to guns and used them on themselves or others. I strongly support your bill to help stop gun violence.

Joanne Ackerman

Anchorage

Dear Legislator

I am writing in strong support of HB 75 to establish Gun Violence Protective Orders in Alaska and commend your efforts to prevent future violence. In light of the tragic school shooting in Parkland, Florida and the rising number of shootings and suicides in our own state and throughout the country, I believe that we must do all we can to empower family members and others to know the signs of gun violence and then act to say something to save lives.

Since the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary and those that have followed, we have learned that the vast majority of mass shooters show signs of their intentions before becoming violent. That's why Sandy Hook Promise works within schools and community organizations, including in Alaska, to teach children and adults to know the signs of people who may be at risk of hurting themselves or others. By knowing the signs and acting, we can get others the help they need and save lives.

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. GVPOs mirror the same, effective judicial process of domestic violence and civil protection orders. 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.

As the rates of mass shootings and suicides in this country continue to rise, GVPOs have proven to be effective at separating at risk individuals from their firearms and saving hundreds of lives.

In 1999, Connecticut became the first state in the country to pass a law granting law enforcement the clear legal authority to temporarily remove firearms from individuals when there is probable cause to believe they are at a significant risk of harm to self or others. A study on the effects of this law found that for every 10 or 11 guns seized through the restraining order, at least one suicide was prevented. Since Connecticut passed its law, states across the country have started adopting this important policy, including Indiana, California, and Washington.

GVPOs 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. Passage of HB 75 would help build a system of prevention and care that will help decrease the risk of suicide and violence for Alaskans and their families.

I am proud to support HB 75 and I urge its swift passage. Thank you for your commitment to keeping our communities safe and preventing gun violence before it happens.

Sincerely,

Eva Loczi
Girdwood

I support HB75. I also support a higher age 21 for weapons like the one used on the children in Florida, I support the ban on that kind of Weapon. Also please do not take funds from NRA. I am not against the use of guns but we have a lot of people who do not use them properly.

Suicide prevention can involve the separation of ammunition from a gun and also making not so easy to obtain,

Thank you, Sharon Rooth.

Dear Rep. Tarr,

I'm emailing because I want to voice my support for House Bill 75. HB 75 will save lives and prevent more tragedies and we need to get this passed.

Thank you

Kristen Serra

Sent from my iPhone

Alaska Legislators,

Please vote yes to pass House Bill 75. This is one small but important step to deal with the epidemic of gun violence we are experiencing in our country. Please help us prevent more tragedies. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan and Jay Gilleland

401 Sweetgale Court

Anchorage, AK 99518

Dear Rep. Tarr: I am writing to add my support for HB 75. Thank you so much for introducing it! Lisa Weissler, Juneau

2/25/2018

Honorable Representatives:

In light of the recent shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, as well as the many shootings preceding this incident, passing common-sense public safety legislation in Alaska is long overdue. So, I am writing to ask you to support House Bill 75, which will establish Gun Violence Protective Orders (GVPOs) in our state.

The passage of HB 75 will help to build a system of prevention and care that will help decrease the risk of suicide and violence for Alaskans and their families. GVPOs empower families to intervene when they see a person in crisis and the signs of violent behavior, by petitioning the court to temporarily suspend that person's access to firearms.

GVPOs have proven to be effective at separating at-risk individuals from their firearms and saving lives. In addition, they create safer circumstances for at-risk individuals to seek treatment, including counseling and other resources to address the causes of the dangerous and threatening behaviors.

Passing HB 75 seems like a win-win for everyone. It is certainly a viable first step. Therefore, I am requesting that you support this bill and urge its swift passage. Thank you for your commitment to preventing gun violence and keeping our communities safe.

Sincerely,

Barbara Pastorino

4935 Wren Drive

Juneau, AK 99801

907-351-1481

pastorino@gci.net

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing in support of the proposed red flag law that is on the books for consideration. I have 4 kids and want to know that when I trust them to the school's care, they are safe. I support HR75. How many kids need to die before we start passing some common sense gun laws.

Thank you,
Morgan Edwards
(907)982-7965

I absolutely support Rep. Geran Tarr's bill HB 75.

Alaska's high rate of domestic violence and suicide make this bill an important first step towards reducing those statistics.

Please pass this bill.

Judith Veerman
4220 Endeavor Circle
Anchorage, AK 99515

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

From: Patricia Kennish [<mailto:kennish@gci.net>]
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 8:41 PM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 75

Dear Rep. Tarr:

I'm writing to thank you for bringing this issue before the legislature.

The opportunity to temporarily remove guns from someone who is unstable or mentally ill would definitely save lives. The husband of an acquaintance, suffering PTSD and/or depression, ran upstairs and grabbed his gun and took his life. I am concerned that the mentally ill generally may be suspected of violent tendencies, although the evidence is to the contrary. Rather, there are those who have anger management issues and I hope they are covered under your bill.

In appreciation,

Patricia Kennish
12821 Chapel Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99516
907-345-0306
907-230-8156
kennish@gci.net

Subject:HB 75

Date:Mon, 26 Feb 2018 19:30:22 -0900

From:Gayle Trivette <gayletriv@gci.net>

To:Representative.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov

Hi Rep. Parish - I'm writing to ask you to support HB 75 - Extreme Risk Protective Orders. In addition to my horror about the mass shootings that have been committed by mentally unwell people, I also have a concern for the need to be able to restrict access to firearms for a person having a mental breakdown and at risk for possible suicide. We lost our younger son almost 11 years ago to suicide by a firearm. We advocate for this tool for possible suicide prevention also.

Thank you for your work for our community and state.

Gayle Trivette
780 Glacier Hwy
Juneau, AK 99801

From: Julia York [<mailto:juliamyork@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 10:38 AM

To: Diana Rhoades <Diana.Rhoades@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 75

Hello,

I am writing thank Representative Tarr for sponsoring HB 75 and ask Representative Guttenberg to support the measure.

I am not opposed to gun ownership but live in fear of an active shooter situation, whether it be in a school or in a public place. When I found out that 90% of all mass shooters had some sort of domestic violence charge against them, I realized that it is important to enable the families of mass shooters to speak out and be heard before violence escalates. HB 75 does exactly that, and I hope passing some sort of state gun reform might make Alaskans safer and push Congress to act.

Thank you very much for your work and concern on this issue.

Julia York
907 460 1991
1170 Sundance Loop
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Dear Judiciary Committee Members:

I urge you to pass the Extreme Risk Protection Order out of the committee. This is a basic call for keeping guns out of the hands of those most susceptible to committing violence. It is known that in states that have these kinds of laws, firearm-related domestic violence deaths have been reduced, and there is evidence that this kind of protection reduces the incidence of suicide. Alaska suffers from high rates of suicide and domestic violence and would thereby most notably reap benefits in these ways from this policy.

On a personal note, I know that mass school shootings are still very rare, but with the increased prevalence of guns in our environment and the ease of access to them, I fear for the safety of my own three children, the oldest of which is about to embark upon high school and will possibly attend a large high school in Anchorage.

The right to bear arms for purposes of a subsistence lifestyle is fine, but that right should take no child, or movie goer, or church goer, or concert goer's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

HB 75 is a reasonable measure to prevent needless death and injury caused by allowing firearms to be in the wrong hands. I urge committee members to seize the opportunity for leadership on this issue instead of waiting for the next tragedy to occur. Even one suicide or murder is a tragedy you can prevent through this legislation.

Thank you,

Annette Marley, MPH
2020 Banbury Circle
Anchorage, AK 99504
907-244-2202

My name is Patricia Turner Custard and I support House Bill 75, commonly known as a Red Flag Law, to create an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO).

I support HB 75 because:

1. Red Flag Laws, such as HB 75, can save lives by creating a way for family members and law enforcement to act before warning signs escalate into tragedies.

Five states already have Red Flag Laws—and bills are currently pending in another 18 states.

2. Mass shooters often display warning signs before committing violent acts.

A nationwide study of mass shootings from 2009 to 2016 revealed that in at least 42 percent of those incidents,

there is documentation that the attacker exhibited dangerous warning signs before the shooting.

3. Red Flag Laws have robust due process protections.

4. Red Flag Laws also address another gun violence epidemic—firearm suicide.

Suicide accounts for nearly two-thirds of gun deaths in the United States.

A 2017 study of Connecticut's Red Flag Law found that the law has already averted an estimated 72 or more suicides. Reducing a suicidal person's access to firearms can save their life.

5. With the highest rate of gun deaths of any state in the nation, and with the most lenient gun regulations, it is past time to pass common-sense gun and public safety legislation in Alaska.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Patricia Turner Custard
17670 Point Lena Loop Road
Juneau, AK 99801
907-209-4692

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 Rep. Claman,

My name is Janice Swiderski, and I have been an Alaska resident for 22 years, currently in House District 28. I am respectful of the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, and I also strongly believe that common sense gun regulations go hand in hand with that right. We all deserve to live in a country where our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is also protected. HR 75 is one of those common sense solutions that can help protect the safety and security of all Alaska's citizens, without infringing on anyone's Second Amendment rights.

On a personal level, I am supportive of how HR 75 would help reduce the incidence of suicide by gun in our state. Many years ago my only uncle, my father's only sibling, shot and killed himself with a gun. I experienced the trauma that a

tragic suicide can bring to a family, and unfortunately, far too many Alaskan families experience this trauma now, at the second highest rate in the nation ,with Wyoming being in the #1 slot (at least this is my understanding from the most current data I could find).

Loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see the warning signs when a person is in crisis. HR 75 would give them a way to protect that person from making an impulsive, deadly decision. Studies show that 90% of people who attempt suicide with a gun will die. In total contrast to that, 90% of people who attempt suicide by another method will survive, and the majority of those survivors do not make another attempt. Gun users are not more suicidal or have more intent, they simply have access to a particularly deadly method of self harm in a time of crisis.

Research also shows that variations in suicide rates across states are due primarily to variations in the availability of firearms, not by differences in mental health. And we are all very aware of the availability of firearms in a state where so many of us are gun owners.

I urge you to support this bill, to save lives and help insure that no family has to experience the tragedy my family did. If we had had access to a tool like HR 75, my dear uncle, a World War II combat veteran, might have lived out his life to the fullest, in the way he truly deserved. These tragedies are preventable.

Respectfully yours,
Janice Swiderski

Keenan Powell
5941 Muirwood Dr
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

February 23, 2017

The Honorable Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Legislator,

I am writing in strong support of HB 75 to establish Gun Violence Protective Orders in Alaska and commend your efforts to prevent future violence. In light of the tragic school shooting in Parkland, Florida and the rising number of shootings and suicides in our own state and throughout the country, I believe that we must do all we can to empower family members and others to know the signs of gun violence and then act to say something to save lives.

I joined Sandy Hook Promise because I have children who attended public school and now I have grandchildren who attended public school. I am deeply concerned about the historical inability of the judicial and law enforcement systems to address gun violence in Alaska.

Since the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary and those that have followed, we have learned that the vast majority of mass shooters show signs of their intentions before becoming violent. That's why Sandy Hook Promise works within schools and community organizations, including in Alaska, to teach children and adults to know the signs of people who may be at risk of hurting themselves or others. By knowing the signs and acting, we can get others the help they need and save lives.

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. GVPOs mirror the same, effective judicial process of domestic violence and civil protection orders. 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.

As the rates of mass shootings and suicides in this country continue to rise, GVPOs have proven to be effective at separating at risk individuals from their firearms and saving hundreds of lives.

In 1999, Connecticut became the first state in the country to pass a law granting law enforcement the clear legal authority to temporarily remove firearms from individuals when there is probable cause to believe they are at a significant risk of harm to self or others. A study on the effects of this law found that for every 10 or 11 guns seized through the restraining order, at least one suicide was prevented. Since Connecticut passed its law, states across the country have started adopting this important policy, including Indiana, California, and Washington.

GVPOs 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. Passage of HB 75 would help build a system of prevention and care that will help decrease the risk of suicide and violence for Alaskans and their families.

I am proud to support HB 75 and I urge its swift passage. Thank you for your commitment to keeping our communities safe and preventing gun violence before it happens.

However, I wish to point out that the language requiring health care providers to make annual reports is inadequate. By the time a health care provider makes his or her annual report, the threat could have been carried out. Moreover, I believe this duty conflicts with other statutory duties of mandatory reporters. I would suggest this language should be changed to require providers to make these reports immediately.

Sincerely,

Keenan Powell
5941 Muirwood Dr.
Anchorage AK 99502
keenan@gci.net

To: Representative Geran Tarr, rep.geran.tarr@akleg.gov

From: Madeline Scholl, Anchorage resident (99501)

February 21, 2018

Dear Representative Tarr:

I am writing today to express my support for your proposed bill, HB 75 – Gun Violence Protective Orders.

As Alaskans, we are all too aware of the epidemic of gun deaths by suicide in our beloved State, and across the nation. This bill would reduce the number of deaths by suicide by reducing a suicidal person's access to firearms. Nine out of ten suicide attempts with a gun result in death, whereas most attempts by other means do not result in death.

I wish this bill had been a State law in May of 2008, when a dear friend of mine, Nicklaus James Sorum, took his own life with a pistol. He was 21 years old. If HB 75 had been law, Nick's immediate family, law enforcement, or mental health professionals *could* have petitioned a court for an Extreme Risk Protection Order. The court *could* have reviewed the evidence and testimony of both parties (due process), and ultimately *could* have deemed Nick in immediate danger of harming himself or others, and required Nick to forfeit any firearms currently in his possession – even temporarily, and *could* have barred him from acquiring any new firearms. Nick's life *could* have been saved. No – there is no guarantee that this law would have saved his life, but isn't just the POSSIBILITY that it could have saved his life enough to justify it?

If this bill becomes law and prevents the death by suicide of even ONE person – ISN'T THAT ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY IT'S EXISTENCE?

Myself and many other Alaskans believe so.

Coinciding with our epidemic level of suicide deaths by firearm is the horrific frequency of mass shootings in our country. A nationwide study by Everytown for Gun Safety of mass shootings from 2009 to 2016 (available at: <http://every.tw/2BvFkXr>) revealed that in least 42 percent of those incidents, there is documentation that the attacker exhibited dangerous warning signs before the mass-murder by firearm.

Once again, hitting close to home, Esteban Santiago – the alleged mass-murderer of the Fort Lauderdale airport shooting on January 6, 2017, was hospitalized briefly here in Anchorage in November 2016 for psychiatric care. He also had gone to the FBI office in town asking for help, telling the agents he was hearing voices and thought the government was controlling his mind (obvious symptoms of schizophrenia.) He HIMSELF relinquished the very firearm he used to kill 5 people and injure 6 more to authorities around this time, but those authorities had no method by which to withhold the firearm any longer once he decided to regain possession.

THIS IS NOT OK.

Again, the five lives senselessly lost to the murder carried out by someone exhibiting BLANTANT warning signs COULD have been saved if Alaska had a law like HB 75 in place at the time.

Rep. Tarr, I thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for championing this effort to SAVE ALASKAN LIVES. Myself and hundreds of other supporters are behind you 110%, and are praying that this Legislature wakes up and realizes that this bill has the potential to avert more senseless deaths by firearm.

Your ally for gun sense and safety,

Madeline Scholl
Anchorage Resident (99501)
Alaskan for 28 years

The Honorable Alaska State Legislature

Feb 23, 2018

State Capitol

Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Legislators:

I am writing in strong support of HB 75 to establish Gun Violence Protective Orders in Alaska and commend your efforts to prevent future violence. In light of the tragic school shooting in Parkland, Florida and the rising number of shootings and suicides in our own state and throughout the country, I believe that we must do all we can to empower family members and others to know the signs of gun violence and then act to say something to save lives.

Since the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary and those that have followed, we have learned that the vast majority of mass shooters show signs of their intentions before becoming violent. That's why Sandy Hook Promise works within schools and community organizations, including in Alaska, to teach children and adults to know the signs of people who may be at risk of hurting themselves or others. By knowing the signs and acting, we can get others the help they need and save lives.

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. GVPOs mirror the same, effective judicial process of domestic violence and civil protection orders. 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.

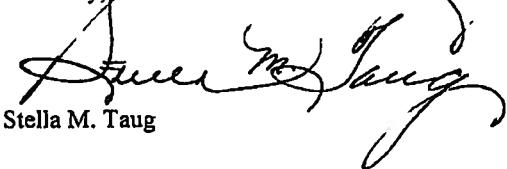
As the rates of mass shootings and suicides in this country continue to rise, GVPOs have proven to be effective at separating at risk individuals from their firearms and saving hundreds of lives.

In 1999, Connecticut became the first state in the country to pass a law granting law enforcement the clear legal authority to temporarily remove firearms from individuals when there is probable cause to believe they are at a significant risk of harm to self or others. A study on the effects of this law found that for every 10 or 11 guns seized through the restraining order, at least one suicide was prevented. Since Connecticut passed its law, states across the country have started adopting this important policy, including Indiana, California, and Washington.

GVPOs 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. Passage of HB 75 would help build a system of prevention and care that will help decrease the risk of suicide and violence for Alaskans and their families.

I am proud to support HB 75 and I urge its swift passage. Thank you for your commitment to keeping our communities safe and preventing gun violence before it happens.

Sincerely,



Stella M. Taug

895 W. 12th St. #421

Juneau, AK 99801

To: Representative Geran Tarr

From: E. Foyle-Saft, resident & classroom teacher (99504, 99508)

Feb. 23, 2018

Subject: Soft gun laws, school massacres, deaths due to suicide, death by domestic violence by partners with mental illness & feeling very scared for students & colleagues in our schools

Dear Representative Tarr,

The intent of this message to you to share my support of your proposed bill, HB 75 – Gun Violence Protective Orders. If ever there was a crucial time for this, it is now.

Protective orders must be reinforced. Individuals that suffer from mental illness and and have shown struggles, should not be permitted to purchase/own a gun of any kind.

(How and why non-military persons are permitted to own/operate assault rifles baffles me).

We have an opportunity where we can restore calm in our communities by helping citizens (big and small) to feel relatively safe in an unsafe culture.

We all know some member, family or friend, who is not capable of making good choices. Owning a gun, when struggling, is not in this individual's best interest.

Please continue to support HB 75 – Gun Violence Protective Orders.

Sincerely,

E. Foyle-Saft

Citizen, Mom, Sister, Wife, Grandma, Friend, Teacher,

Jan Caulfield
525 W 9th St.
Juneau, AK 99801
February 23, 2018

The Honorable Geran Tarr
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Tarr:

I am writing in strong support of HB 75 to establish Gun Violence Protective Orders in Alaska and commend your efforts to prevent future violence. In light of the tragic school shooting in Parkland, Florida and the rising number of shootings and suicides in our own state and throughout the country, I believe that we must do all we can to empower family members and others to know the signs of gun violence and then act to say something to save lives.

I am a member of Sandy Hook Promise and of Moms Demand Action. I am also a contributor to Americans for Responsible Solutions. I am a parent of two young adults and have been an active public school volunteer. I am a strong supporter of reasonable gun controls in Alaska and in the United States.

I regularly contact Senators Murkowski and Sullivan and Congressman Young to urge them to support reasonable gun controls at the national level – and am consistently disappointed that they are not willing to look at any solutions. As far as I am concerned, the blood of mass shooting victims is on the hands of the politicians who DO NOTHING to safeguard our young people at schools – and members of the public who gather at churches, concerts, movie theaters, shopping malls, work places ... and every other venue that is at risk of mass violence.

Solutions need to come at the state and local levels. For that reason, I am grateful for your sponsorship of HB75 as one modest measure that could help save lives in Alaska.

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. GVPOs mirror the same, effective judicial process of domestic violence and civil protection orders. As the rates of mass shootings and suicides in this country continue to rise, GVPOs have proven to be effective at separating at risk individuals from their firearms and saving hundreds of lives.

In 1999, Connecticut became the first state in the country to pass a law granting law enforcement the clear legal authority to temporarily remove firearms from individuals when there is probable cause to believe they are at a significant risk of harm to self or others. A study on the effects of this law found that for every 10 or 11 guns seized through the restraining order, at least one suicide was prevented. Since Connecticut passed its law, states for across the country have started adopting this important policy, including Indiana, California, and Washington.

GVPOs 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. Passage of HB 75 would help build a system of prevention and care that will help decrease the risk of suicide and violence for Alaskans and their families.

I am proud to support HB 75 and I urge its swift passage. Thank you for your commitment to keeping our communities safe and preventing gun violence before it happens.

Sincerely,

Jan Caulfield
525 W 9th St
Juneau, AK 99801
email: janc@gci.net

cc: Senator Dennis Egan
Rep. Sam Kito
Rep. Justin Parish

February 25, 2018

Representative Geran Tarr
rep.geran.tarr@akleg.gov

Dear Representative Tarr,

Once again, our nation has been rocked by a mass-shooting at a school, this time in Florida. The 19-year suspect displayed many warning signs and law enforcement authorities received numerous reports about his threatening and erratic behavior. Nothing was done because nothing could legally be done.

Yet, there is something that can and must be done. The proposed legislation you have drafted, House Bill 75, gives our families, law enforcement and others a chance to intervene in volatile situations before they escalate into tragedy by allowing the courts to temporarily remove firearms from those who are a danger to others or themselves.

I am a parent and a grandparent who has lived in Alaska for nearly 40 years. I am saddened by our tragic distinction of having the highest rate of gunshot suicides in our nation. We also have exceptionally high rates of violent crime involving firearms. I am weary and worried that we have NO protections from becoming another statistic in the escalating gun violence in our nation. We should not have to fear for our lives when we go to church or a concert or wait for our luggage at an airport. We should not have to worry that we might never see a child again after they go to school in the morning.

I am also a gun owner. I believe HB 75 provides the appropriate Second Amendment safeguards as well as thorough due process protections that are essential to all citizens in this country. A firearm removed in a crisis situation can be returned once the danger is past. To date, five states have already enacted a similar “Red Flag Law” and at least 18 others are considering similar legislation.

It is time for Alaska to help lead the nation in protecting its people and preventing these unnecessary gun deaths. Thank you for fighting for this critical legislation. Alaskan lives depend on it.

Sincerely,



Laura Bliss Spaan
Anchorage, AK 99517

February 26, 2018

The Honorable Geran Tarr
Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building, Room 126
Juneau, AK, 99801

Dear Representative Tarr,

I am writing to you as a registered nurse and as an Alaska resident of 25 years to voice my strong support of HB 75 (Gun Violence Protective Orders) to establish a "red flag law" in Alaska.

From my professional nursing experience, I know it is imperative to prevent individuals from obtaining or accessing firearms when they are at extreme risk of committing violence due to a mental or emotional crisis. Providing family members, medical professionals, and law enforcement officers with a means to accomplish this would save many lives. According to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, the overall suicide rate in Alaska is double that of the rest of the nation. The suicide rate is over three times higher among Alaska Native peoples. While not all suicide attempts are executed with a gun, most that result in death involve guns. A shot from a gun is immediate, irreversible, and fatal.

From a personal perspective, I wish to recount the story of my friend, a Persian Gulf War veteran. When he returned from the Middle East, he was diagnosed with PTSD and depression. He had difficulty sleeping due to nightmares and hypervigilance and he kept a loaded pistol under his pillow. He began abusing alcohol, street drugs, and his prescribed medications for anxiety and insomnia. During his most troubled years, he was involved in many physical fights and was arrested several times for discharging a gun while intoxicated. He never spent more than one night in jail and only the actual gun used in each offense was ever confiscated (temporarily). After each arrest, he returned home to a gun safe full of firearms. One night after drinking heavily and taking pills, he accidentally discharged one of his many guns, shooting himself in the leg, shattering his femur, and setting him on a path of repeated surgeries and compounded medical problems.

That injury was 100% preventable. The police, the court judges, his doctors, and his counselors at VA all knew he had substance abuse issues, mental health struggles, a history of violent behaviors, and guns in his home; but nothing was done – or could be done by law – to confiscate his vast collection of guns. He is fortunate to have not killed himself or someone else during that dark period of his life.

HB 75 will prevent injuries and save lives. Thank you for sponsoring this piece of legislation. I appreciate your ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety of our communities.

Sincerely,

Catherine Ducasse
6251 Bubbling Brook Circle
Anchorage, AK 99516

February 27, 2018

Dear Chair Claman and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 75, Extreme Risk Protective Orders.

We hope you will all support this common sense public safety legislation. It provides a needed tool for families and law enforcement to remove guns from individuals experiencing an elevated risk of endangering themselves or others.

We have seen all too many recent examples where the outcome of mass shootings might have been different had this tool been available. We cannot look away from the tragedy of those 17 students and staff in Florida. We cannot look away from five dead in Florida by an Alaska resident who reached out for help, but managed to board a plane with a gun in his luggage after Alaskan law enforcement had no legal authority to refrain from returning his gun. Most mass shooters have exhibited signs of their intentions before becoming violent.

Also heartbreaking is the prevalence of suicide in Alaska. It is likely that many of us in this room have been directly and personally affected by this, or at least have family and friends who have been. Providing a legal means of intervening with a person in crisis by removing his or her guns temporarily will give families a critical tool to protect their loved ones and prevent avoidable tragedies.

Oregon, Washington, Indiana, Connecticut and California have already established this type of protective orders, and 18 other states are considering such measures. This should be one area where we can come together in agreement to save lives.

We commend you for taking this up, and we urge your strong support for HB 75.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Sally and Frank Rue
7083 Hendrickson Rd.
Juneau, AK 99801

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 Kubitza

From: Rep. Matt Claman
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 3:58 PM
To: House Judiciary
Subject: FW: HB 75 testimony for House Judiciary Committee

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Cheryl & Mark Lovegreen [mailto:lovegreensnorth@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:33 AM
To: Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 75 testimony for House Judiciary Committee

Dear Chair Claman and members of the committee,

Thank you to the House Judiciary Committee for taking our testimony. My name is Cheryl Lovegreen, and I am a resident of District 18 in Anchorage. I am writing as a member of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in Alaska.

Last weekend I was a judge for the State Drama Debate and Forensics Tournament. The last event I judged was Extemporaneous Commentary, where high school students describe and comment on political cartoons. The last two cartoons were about the recent school shooting in Florida.

One student, let's call her A, described going home the evening after the shooting, and being scared of that happening at her school. Her mother tried to comfort her, but had to admit she could not guarantee her safety. As A put it, "That's not okay." The other student, let's call her B, spoke about young people who are angry, lonely and afraid and don't know what to do with their negative emotions. She begged us to reach out and help those who might be at risk of becoming a shooter.

The good thing is, we have a chance to help these students and avoid more tragedies. We can pass HB 75. It will give people a way to help a family member in crisis - a gun violence protective order. A family member - or a law enforcement officer - seeing someone is at risk of doing serious harm to him or herself or others, can ask a court to find that the person is a danger to self or others. The court's order prevents that person from doing harm by ordering their guns to be temporarily surrendered and by preventing guns from being sold to them.. The bill provides relief in emergency situations while respecting due process.

Will this bill solve all our problems? Of course not—the situation is too complex for that. But it will give us one more tool in the toolbox and save lives. For example, a 2017 study of Connecticut's Red Flag Law found that the law has already averted an estimated 72 or more suicides.

When I heard those students on Saturday, I felt like we failed them. But we can begin to address their fears and frustrations with this bill. It will provide a little hope to student A, B, and all the other young people out there. We owe it to them to do what we can. We must pass HB 75.

Thanks for your time.

Cheryl Lovegreen

Dear Legislators,

If you were to meet me you might never know I spent much of my childhood hoping that 'this' weekend when I went to my Dad's house he wouldn't be angry. That 'this' weekend he wouldn't be so depressed that he wouldn't get out of bed. That 'this' weekend I wouldn't end up crying in the kitchen as he explained to my siblings and me how he was going to shoot our mom and/or himself.

My Dad was bipolar. I was 8. Everyone knew he was sick. Everyone knew he didn't always take his medication. Everyone knew his three children were required to spent every weekend with him. Everyone knew he had a gun.

My Dad had a gun that he would bring out when especially manic and shoot off of our deck. This is when his children would have to convince him that killing mom wouldn't make his life better. My Dad had a gun he would shoot into the night when he was especially depressed. This is when his children would have to convince him that we did love him and his death would not make our lives better.

Thankfully, luckily, my Dad never used his gun on my mom or himself. Or us. But in those terror filled nights an 8 year old never knew if this was the night he would actually do it.

A gun didn't make my dad bipolar. However, it did make an already bad situation even more dangerous for him and his three kids. I implore the Alaska Legislature to support HB 75. By making sure those who are in crisis are unable to access a gun you are changing lives. By making sure those who are a danger to themselves or others aren't in possession of a gun you are keeping the next 8 year old from having to wonder how to keep a parent from using a gun on someone they love.

Thank you,
Chelsea Vukovich
Anchorage, AK

Lizzie Kubitza

From: LIO Sitka
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 5:06 PM
To: Rep. Matt Claman
Cc: House Judiciary
Subject: Public Testimony on HB75 for House Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Claman,
Please accept this written public testimony for distribution to the House Judiciary Committee from Sitka constituent Libby Stortz libbystortz@gci.net as submitted to the Sitka LIO.

HB 75 Taking some steps toward protecting families and communities from gun violence is long overdue.

These are a few steps that can make a big impact in decreasing gun violence in Alaska.

Please verify receipt,
Thank you!
Ken Fate,
Sitka LIO

Good afternoon. My name is Jason Keedy. My family and I live and work right here in Juneau, AK. I am a member of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in Alaska. Thank you all very much for the opportunity to speak on behalf of HB 75.

Living and working here in downtown – and seeing the kids of all ages going to and from the area schools – I consider myself fortunate to witness firsthand the next generation taking their formative steps towards being the future leaders of our great state. Lately however, in the wake of endless reports of gun violence, this feeling has an added tinge of concern as I (and all of you as well) search to find ways to protect our most valuable and most beloved resource – our children. I believe HB 75 is a decisive and comprehensive step towards safeguarding vulnerable populations and a step towards stemming the epidemic of gun violence in our state.

A hallmark of Alaska is our tight knit community kinship and the ability of these communities to work together to create common sense answers to everyday challenges. HB 75 unleashes this innate talent – allowing members of the community to work towards expedient solutions. When a person is in crisis, close family members and law enforcement often are the first to see these warning signs. HB 75 would connect and empower communities to take immediate and decisive action – while also respecting civil liberties and due process.

We all seek responsive and effective solutions to the challenge of gun violence. HB 75 is effective in its ability to respond immediately to those occasions when red flags are raised. In Connecticut, a 2017 study found that their Red Flag Law had prevented 72 or more suicides since the law's inception. With Alaskan suicide rates being among the highest in the country, I believe HB 75 would empower local communities and give them vital resources to help address this terrible scourge in our great state.

The message is clear: community members throughout Alaska desire a prompt and decisive response to our dilemma of gun violence. I feel HB 75 is a commonsense measure for Alaskans. Often when tragedy strikes – whether suicide or a shooting – we look to the close family members and law enforcement as having some responsibility. HB 75 now gives these family members and law enforcement the ability to take immediate and responsible action to defuse a dangerous situation. I ask this committee to approve HB 75 to empower Alaskan communities and to improve public safety across the state.