From: Rep. Laddie Shaw
To: House State Affairs
Subject: FW: Testimony for House State Affairs Committee 4/11/23 on HB61
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From: odetteedgar@gmail.com <odetteedgar@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 8, 2023 3:41 PM
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Odette Edgar Testimony for 4/11/23 House State Affairs committee on HB61

Good afternoon, Chair Shaw and members of the State Affairs committee.

My name is Odette Edgar. I live in Juneau, am a 53-year Alaska resident, and I represent myself.

I am testifying in opposition to HB61. The bill's sponsors have testified that this bill does not significantly change state law; that is a good reason not to pass this bill.

During an emergency, state and municipal officials must take unusual measures to protect public safety. This bill allows them to be sued if they decide to limit gun use to protect public safety. Here's an example discussed during earlier hearings in the Community and Regional Affairs committee. Officials could be sued if guns are prohibited in an emergency shelter or soup kitchen set up in a public place, for example, a Walmart parking lot. I believe guns should not be allowed in an emergency shelter, regardless of its location.

But my main objections are with sections C and D in HB 61:

Section C allows two or more members of a gun rights organization or the group itself to bring civil action in superior court. I strongly object to giving any gun rights organization special status in Alaska law. My apologies to any committee members here who are members of this organization, but this is a special interest group that

does not reflect my values.

In Section D, the enhanced (triple) attorney fees are outrageous, and awarding court costs may conflict with the Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure. The award of attorney fees is a normally determined by the court system.

We are a society that sues at the drop of a hat, and this bill takes us further down that road.

Please do not pass HB61 out of committee.

Thank you for considering my testimony.