

Carroll, Rhonda

From: Penny Johnston <pjohnst637@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 2:34 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Violence against women

Dear members of the Joint Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my support for HB 5054 An Act Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence, SB 429 An Act Concerning Service of Restraining Orders and HB 5623 An Act Concerning Violence Against Women And Victims Of Human Trafficking. There is no logic to disarming abusers subject to a permanent restraining order but not a temporary restraining order. Ex-parte orders have withstood constitutional challenges. I believe this will too.

I strongly oppose HB 5597 because it uses the risk warrant process instead of immediately removing firearms in the possession of the abuser. An in-depth study by the nonpartisan Battered Women's Justice Project concludes "giving judges the discretion and authority to order the surrender of firearms in an ex parte or temporary civil restraining order to be a substantially sounder policy because the responsibility and burden shifts from the victim to the state and courts and it does not add an extra hurdle for victims. At least twenty states concur and have passed legislation authorizing or requiring the surrender of firearms at the ex parte stage."

Sent from my iPhone