

My name is Nicole Salisbury and I am an advocate intern for United Services Domestic Violence Program. I am writing in support of HB No. 5054: An Act Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence.

In the shelter, I work hands on with victims and children who are forced to leave their home to escape violence and abuse. One of the first things we ask victims is if their abuser has access to weapons and if she thinks her abuser will try to look for her. A majority of the clients we serve believe their abuser will come looking for them, hurt them or kill them. I have seen the fear in my client's eyes when she talks about her abuser and the trauma she has suffered from.

The most dangerous time for victims is when he or she tries to end a relationship. This bill would protect victims during this crucial period of time. Through the temporary removal of firearms, we could potentially save several victims from life-threatening injuries and traumatic experiences. I urge you to support HB No. 5054 so that all victims of domestic violence have the right to safely leave a relationship.

Sincerely,

Nicole Salisbury