

Amanda Schrader
Pembroke
LD 2283

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Amanda Schrader and I am from Pembroke. I am opposed to LD2283.

I was on my way to the state house to testify in person, and was not able to finish the full 180 miles to get there. Please read my testimony and consider it.

I am a survivor of domestic abuse. I had 4 young children at the time. My case was extreme and serious. It took about 2 years for things to become revealed with proof for authorities. Our abuser was highly educated, charming and strategic. If this law was in place 14 years ago, he would have surely used this against us and brought more harm. He had deemed me mentally unstable and unable to take care of the children. Thank God all worked out because of due process and the incredible laws of our land. What I learned from this experience is that the law could not keep me safe. It was my job to protect myself. As hard as they work, they simply can't be expected to be my bodyguard. They did their job, I did mine. With laws in place and being upheld there can be justice.

In 2021 there was a case of a child being abused in my town. I had taken the child in my home. The child was being horrendously abused on every level. My life and the life of my family was threatened by the abuser. With this law it would leave it open for made up accusations, complete chaos, and further trauma. Abusers don't play nice. There must be clear laws to follow, and no room for peoples own thoughts and opinions.

I asked a police officer what he felt about this bill. He told me that the law is predicated on our belief that a person presents a likelihood of foreseeable harm to themselves or others. He then said, "How the heck can I predict that?". This would be putting yet another burden on our already overly taxed law enforcement.

I listened to as many of the other testimonies as I could for this hearing. There was a theme that I often heard and that is keeping people safe. I wish that I could relieve you of the burden and belief that it is your duty to keep people safe. I realize this is controversial right now. The reality is, it's not your job. It's your job to uphold the law and write laws that do that as well. The truth is, bad things happen to good people. You can not legislate away bad things from happening.

One person that testified, mentioned that China is safe and they don't have mass shootings. Well, safe at what expense? Slavery? Our country stands out among all nations for our laws for personal justice and liberty. Specifically, the Constitution. As a woman, I have felt so protected and supported in the face of some very difficult things happening to me and my family. These include suicide and mental illness with family members. I am so grateful for my liberty here and it is hard when I hear someone comparing our country to a country that does not believe that personal liberty matters.

A judge told me while in court during my dealing with abuse, he said, "The courts can not go by your good faith, Madam. It must go by the law."

In summary: It's your job to uphold that law, not keep us safe.

Due process is very important to our protection.

Please oppose LD2283.

Thank you for listening.