



Administrative Office of the Courts

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Judicial Branch testimony neither for nor against LD 2119, An Act to Support Suicide Prevention by Allowing the Voluntary Waiver of Firearm Rights:

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Julie Finn and I represent the Judicial Branch. I would like to provide some comments regarding this bill.

The Judicial Branch takes no position on the merits of LD 2119 but we do have concerns with the court's involvement in the administration of the proposed new process allowing people to waive their firearms rights.

The mission of the Judicial Branch is: "To administer justice by providing a safe, accessible, efficient and impartial *system of dispute resolution* that serves the public interest, protects individual rights, and instills respect for the law." (emphasis added) Our court system exists to (1) resolve disputes (2) between two or more parties.

Our courts resolve problems that arise between two or more parties in multiple areas including divorce and child custody, small claims, evictions, criminal matters, general civil litigation, child protection and other dockets. In some instances, such as criminal matters, one side is represented by the State, either by a District Attorney or by the Attorney General's Office. Every new case begins with a complaint or petition that is assigned a docket number and initiates the court process for that case type.

LD 2119, however, permits a person to fill out and file a form with the court that does not arise out of a case or controversy and does not initiate a new case. There is no complaint to be filed and only one party involved.

We would respectfully suggest that the process for filing a voluntary waiver of firearms rights form as described in the bill does not fall within the mission of the Judicial Branch and would more appropriately lie elsewhere in government.

Thank you for your consideration.