

Testimony in Support of LD 875

Hello Senator Ingwerson, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Dawn Rasmussen and I am testifying in support of LD 875.

I'm here on behalf of my sister Lisa Bailey and her daughter Jennifer who were shot in their backs and killed by the husband/father, Micheal Bailey, on Oct 6, 2024. Our entire large family was affected deeply by this tragedy as well as so many friends, coworkers and others who cared about these women.

After the tragedy my mind swirled with the question "How could this have been avoided?" We learned Michael had been acting erratically for a month or so. Should Lisa have called someone? Who? Not really being able to answer this question myself convinced me education needs to be increased for everyone. Victims, non-victims, adults, children, all individuals, making it mainstream.

I'd love to see Public service announcements. Everyone remembers "This is your brain on drugs" or "Do you know where your kids are?" at 10:00pm. This could be powerful information a victim could hear passively and not worry about having history on her phone checked. If children are within hearing range they may begin to form the opinion that violence and abuse is not acceptable or healthy behavior.

I'd love it if a specially trained person would attend domestic violence calls. Isolate the potential victim so she could speak and listen freely; tell her historically violence can be progressive so her situation could worsen; tell her not to tip her hand if she's planning an escape; tell her all the things she would hear if she dared to reach out to any of the treasured agencies fighting this battle for so many. Give her assurance she is not alone and that many people from that point on would have her back.

If a child isn't already living in a "healthy" home, I truly feel schools are the next best place for them to learn about healthy relationships, the earlier the better. I'm sure bullying and peer pressure are discussed with students. Could this be incorporated into these discussions?

Domestic violence resource centers offer these kinds of services, but they have having to make cutbacks because of lack of funding. These are the services we need to prevent more tragedies in the future. That's why I support LD 875. Thank you for listening and caring about this very important issue that plagues our society.