

Testimony in support of HB 1193
Before the House Judiciary Committee
January 25, 2021

Chairman Klemin and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I submit my written testimony in support of HB 1193. It is my understanding this bill relates to an Act to amend and reenact section 12.1-05-07 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to limits on the use of force and deadly force.

Having been raised in North Dakota, I like many reluctant citizens have struggled to realize this isn't the safe place to grow up that it was during my childhood. This glaring fact hit home directly for me during—if I am recalling the year correctly, the summer of 2014. My husband was out of town and during that time a severe thunderstorm hit the area. The kind where it was pouring buckets of rain.

Something woke me up during the night, I thought it was a nearby lightning strike. I got up to check things out and saw the light on in the interior of our garage. I wasn't concerned as someone often left it to me to shut off and I thought maybe I'd forgotten. Being tired, I decided to leave it on until the morning and went back to bed. A little while later I was again disturbed by another noise. I got up and went downstairs. I looked outside and could see through our front window that the garage light was now off. This freaked me out so I went to get my son who was 20 at the time. I told him what was going on and as we watched the garage light or some type of light came back on. We had no weapons. He ran upstairs to get the heaviest object he could find which was a Midway Bowling Pin from one of his adolescent birthday parties. I called 911 even though I knew it would take time for them to reach us as we live outside city limits. I also called my brother-in-law who lived a short distance away. Until help arrived, we stood guard at our interior garage door with our bowling pin defense system until he arrived. We then entered the garage but found no one. What we did find was a soaked rug by the most remote interior door of the garage. There is no doubt someone had entered but likely left when my brother-in-law pulled up in his vehicle (this door not visible from the front of the home).

This was a wakeup call for me but with my husband home and armed, I generally felt safe until he fell and became paralyzed in the summer of 2015. We were in the midst of dealing with many life changes and our vulnerability to crime being one of those became clear in the fall of 2016. An incident occurred where a man was going around knocking on neighbor doors asking for someone, he claimed was a relative and thought this was their address. This person was also witnessed to stand behind a tree and watch my sister who lived down the street from me, while she was taking outdoor pictures of her kids. It was later found he had a history of burglarizing homes. I knew then we needed a defense system and that system had to be more than 5 foot me and our poodle. **A good defense system is multilayered so I got a large dog, a security system and a gun. All of which should be legal for use as defense in ND.**

I respectfully request your vote in support of HB 1193 because it will support families in North Dakota and women, who are especially vulnerable to crimes against a person and oftentimes within their home.

Sincerely,
Tamara Unterseher, Bismarck ND