

ND Senate Judiciary Committee Testimony Relative To House Bill 1498 – April 5, 2021

Chairman Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I submit this testimony in support of HB1498.

As a resident of ND, I am increasingly alarmed by the suspicious, and I would safely venture to say, nefarious intent of predators happening not only in dimly lit parking lots, but in broad daylight and in busy places of business within our communities. These increased occurrences demand attention and action in support of the protection of law-abiding citizens.

I support immunity from civil liability for justifiable use of force and feel that justifiable uses of force could and should be broadened. Laws should not protect the rights of an aggressor, a criminal, or a predator, above a law-abiding citizen.

I appreciate the clarity that the revisions in HB1498 make to the state century code. I further appreciate that the former limiting, allowable areas of acceptable retreat are more broadly defined as they relate to more real-life scenarios as illustrated in the shared examples below.

Woman warning of another unsettling incident in Fargo parking lot - By Bailey Hurley

Published: Feb. 8, 2021 at 6:12 PM CST

<https://www.valleynewslive.com/2021/02/09/woman-warning-of-another-unsettling-incident-in-fargo-parking-lot/>

Two women warn of unsettling situations at Fargo stores - By Bailey Hurley

Published: Jan. 29, 2021 at 5:49 PM CST

<https://www.valleynewslive.com/2021/01/29/two-women-warn-of-unsettling-situations-at-fargo-stores/>

Public Facebook post - January 28, 2021 at 12:58pm

I was at Barnes and Noble today and noticed a man staying near my girls and I. We went and had a treat at their cafe and he continued to stick close by. On our way to the check out, I noticed two other men with their phones out, occasionally looking at me. All of them were wandering the store and seemed to not be looking at any specific books, etc... two of them left the store. One was standing by the door and the other by some vehicles. The third guy was still wandering the store and saw me at the check out. I informed management and had someone walk me to my vehicle. The two gentlemen who were outside saw that I had someone with me. They met up outside the store and went back in. I followed up with management afterwards and she said she confronted them and asked them to leave. 5 gentlemen and a women left together and all got in to one van. I may have been paranoid but I'd rather be safe than sorry... Please pay attention to your surroundings. This has put me into a bit of a tizzy today. Pay attention when you are out and about.

I will point out that these articles are dated from earlier this year, but one would have to be turning a blind eye to the even more recent occurrences of crime escalating in Fargo and across the state. If the trend continues, and there is sure evidence of it doing just that, wouldn't you want your loved ones to

have the ability to protect themselves and a law to ensure that protection? I would. I would want it for your loved ones just as I would want it for myself and mine.

I urge a do pass recommendation on HB 1498. Thank you for considering this testimony in support of this bill.

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