

Honorable Judiciary Committee,

House Bill 4145 is another good intentions bill which was penned to help save people from harm. I applaud the attempt to save people from harm. Unfortunately, as with many good intentions the road to abuse is squeezed within the bill.

Our justice system is based on being innocent until proven guilty and if once proven guilty, having a reasonable sentence for your crimes. At times, this means that we must caution on the side of the accused not on the side of the victim. It hurts my heart every time I see someone victimized by an abusive significant other (be it wife, husband, girlfriend, boyfriend or even retaliative). Unfortunately, bills such as House Bill 4145 forgets that on other side of that conversation, is the person being accused of being the abuser. Someone who is convicted of stalking or harassing, doesn't necessarily mean they are going to go kill someone. It ignores that we can not convict someone of a crime they didn't actually commit.

SB 719 which was passed last year, was another example of good intentions. A judge could already do these things, but they wanted to pass a law which was *ex parte* so the accused couldn't defend themselves until after the fact.

If House Bill 4145 was really trying to protect abuse victims, then it wouldn't list "gun" 57 times and "victim" only 9 times. It would talk about how to provide protective detail for victims. It would provide requirements for anger management for the abusers, or mindfulness training to help them turn into a better member of society. It would provide support groups to council the victims to break away from what too often is a destructive cycle. Would go further to keep separation from the offender and would be victim(s).

This bill is simply gun control in the guise of a good intentions bill.

If you want to help people, it can be done without taking the rights away from someone else. Next we will use bills like this to take away other rights, like voting or right to a trial. We need to be very mindful of any law that infringes our our rights, as to chip away at one, chips away at all.

Thank you for your time,  
Matt Buckley  
Bill of Rights supporting Registered Democrat