

Chair Sanchez, Vice Chairs Bynum and Sprenger,  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

Thank you for the opportunity to contact you regarding HB 4005, to which I am opposed. We all want safety, especially for children. While I see improvements to this bill since the last time a similar one was proposed, I still have major reasons to ask you for a "NO" vote.

1) It is not acceptable to punish or hold someone responsible for the unlawful actions of another person. It is wrong to turn a victim into a criminal. Section 5 subsection 3 of this bill is therefore unacceptable and can never be made so.

2) I own a herd of dairy goats. Within the last 6 months, after the last time I testified against a similar bill before you, we had a very large cougar attack and kill one of our goats. The cougar came back for a few nights during which time we were taking turns standing guard during the night. There were no children at the house at that time and the guns were on the kitchen table for quick and easy access at all times. After looking into his eyes in a situation where I did not have a clean shot, reality set in. I needed to carry self protection to do night time chores and to get the mail after dark. Going to the barn, garden, or garage was no longer done in a carefree manner. I thought long and hard about the bill we had fought in the previous legislative session, and that I would be guilty of a crime by having the firearms on the table. Being a law-abiding citizen, that did not set well with me. I was actually angry that I had to deal with the possibility that a similar bill would likely come up again in the future. And here we are. The guns were put away and not on the table when the grandkids came over. Nevertheless, I had to be on guard at all times, with my pistol on my person. If the cougar killed a 125 pound goat, the grandkids would be easy prey. So I put before you that there are times when this proposed bill would be unreasonable and there is no provision for that.

There is no provision in the U.S. Constitution, which in your oath of office you swore to support, for abridgement of my right to protect and defend myself. Having to keep my firearm locked up when I KNOW a threat is possible (as in the case of the cougar above) is definitely an abridgement of that right. Even more so when I don't know when an intruder with ill intent will enter my property.

Please vote no.

Thank you again for this opportunity to share my story and thoughts with you.

Sincerely,  
Jean M. Hart