

## **Testimony in Favor of HB1642-FN: “AN ACT relative to extreme risk protection orders.”**

Rep. Timothy Horrigan (Strafford 10); January 14, 2025

House Criminal Justice Committee

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This bill is similar to several others which have been introduced in the past.

HB 1642 sets out a detailed procedure for temporarily taking firearms away from individuals who are having a mental health crisis, in response to a petition filed by law enforcement, or by the victim's family members. Not just anyone can file such a petition. The crisis must be more than just a single "bad day": the petitioners must prove that the individual is in imminent danger of causing bodily injury to themselves or to others. The process outlined in this bill is very thorough, and has many steps and many safeguards: there is no lack of due process here.

Will the proposed procedure be 100% effective? Probably not.

Actually, I know for certain that it will not be 100% effective. This procedure is similar to existing procedures used during criminal proceedings. Those procedures are not 100% effective. In one especially controversial recent case, a man in Berlin, NH was indicted for assaulting his estranged wife, and was let out on bail, subject to (amongst other things) surrendering all his weapons. Somehow, even after surrendering those weapons, he got hold of a firearm, and he shot and killed himself and his wife.

I am certain some tragic incidents will still happen even if HB 1642 is passed into law. But, HB 1642 would make them less likely.