WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1675

House Executive Departments and Administration Committee

February 11, 2026

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Lindsay Smith. I am a survivor of domestic violence and attempted murder. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 1675.

On September 12, 2023, I testified before the House Special Committee on the Family Division of the Circuit Court about what happened to me. I respectfully ask that you watch that testimony:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0uV8vCq5-Y&t=504s

I reiterate that testimony today. But I want to tell this committee something specific about the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, because that is what this bill is about.

What the Coalition's Advocate Did in My Case

On September 21, 2021, I went to the Hampton Police Department to report domestic violence by my partner, Richard Lorman. I brought photographs of bruises covering my body and pages of threatening text messages. The police did not open a criminal investigation. Instead, they told me to seek a civil restraining order, and they said an advocate would contact me.

An advocate did contact me. She helped me fill out the petition for a protective order. But she filled it out wrong – written in the third person, referring to "Lindsay" instead of "I." The judge later noted that the form was confusing. This was the document my petition for protection depended on.

On October 20, 2021, I appeared for the final hearing – the hearing that would decide whether the temporary protective order became permanent. I had no lawyer. My father came with me but could not sit at the counsel table because he was not an attorney.

The advocate did not show up.

My mother later told the legislature: "My husband said, 'Do we need a lawyer?' And Lindsay said, 'No, I've got somebody coming.' And of course, we didn't know you needed a lawyer. Why would we need a lawyer? She was the victim."

The petition was denied. The written order stated, in bold: **PLAINTIFF HAS NOT BEEN ABUSED.**

What Happened Next

With no protective order in place, Richard Lorman was legally able to purchase a firearm. Seventeen days after the denial, he bought a pistol in Hooksett, New

Hampshire. Nine days after that – on November 15, 2021 – he ambushed me outside my workplace, tasered me, and shot me three times in the head before killing himself.

I survived after seven brain surgeries and eighteen months in the hospital. My skull, jaw, and spine are still embedded with bullet fragments.

Had the restraining order been granted, Rick would not have been able to purchase the gun he used on me. I cannot say for certain that a better advocate would have changed the outcome. But I can say this: the advocate assigned to help me prepared a defective petition and then did not show up at the hearing where I needed help the most. The system that was supposed to protect me failed, and the Coalition was part of that failure.

Why I Support This Bill

I am not a lawyer. I do not have opinions about every section of HB 1675. But I support the idea of someone with real authority looking into whether the Coalition is doing what it is supposed to be doing – helping survivors of domestic violence.

In my case, the Coalition's advocate was the one person specifically assigned to help me navigate a system I did not understand. She filled out my paperwork wrong. She did not come to my hearing. Twenty-six days later, I was shot in the head.

The Judicial Branch conducted an internal review and a task force after what happened to me. They looked at the courts. They looked at the forms. They looked at the statute. Nobody looked at the Coalition. Nobody asked whether the advocate system is actually working for the people it is supposed to serve.

I am asking you to look into it. That is all I am asking.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Smith

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