

February 26, 2018

**Jennifer La Forge**

**Mr. Chair, members of the committee,**

My name is Jennifer La Forge.

I'm here today as a mother and a teacher and a gun owner. Several years ago, when we were living in Las Vegas, my husband was home with a friend and could overhear our neighbors escalating a disagreement. Within minutes shots were being fired and some were hitting the front wall and front door of our home. Without any idea if we were being targeted or were just collateral damage my husband and our friend took cover on our interior stairway and waited it out. Feeling vulnerable after this event, we purchased a shotgun for our protection, so I completely empathize with the desire of anyone here to protect and defend themselves in the face of danger.

As a mother of two young girls, I'm concerned about the bill before you, because it actually increases the level of danger for innocent people while claiming to solve a problem we don't have.

We don't have a problem with allowing our citizens to legally defend our homes. We already have strong and comprehensive laws allowing us to do that.

We also don't prosecute reasonable people who defend themselves outside of their homes in the face of danger.

Another problem Idaho doesn't have right now is our homicide rate. But when other states have enacted similar laws they have seen their crime rates rise.

My husband, and two daughters and I love the feeling of peace and safety and security we have here in Idaho and I would hate to see that ruined by passing an unnecessary law.

This bill creates problems for families in Idaho by creating a hazardous environment for innocent bystanders because it encourages recklessness in people who are already willing to engage in and escalate confrontation

SB 1313 will not make Idaho safer for me, or my family. I would like you to vote no.

Thank you,  
Jennifer LaForge

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer La Forge". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.