

ATTACHMENT 1, S 1019, February 9, 2023

Mr. Chair & committee

Thank you for taking testimony today.

My name is Jenn Beazer and I represent myself, my kids, and my mom today. I wish I could be there in person, but I came down Tuesday and so could not be away from work again this week. I am emotional about this topic; I ask your patience if I stop to collect my emotions.

I am a resident in Boise (D17), born at St Luke's, raised in Nampa (D12). Mom is from Idaho Falls; Dad is from Rigby. I am the great, great, granddaughter of John Shelton Howard who was the bishop of the Shelton Ward for many, many years. Graduate from ISU Pocky & Meridian.

My training is in science and dietetics, and I spent nearly 2 decades working as a clinician at St Luke's Boise.

In 2013, my ex-husband tried to strangle me; some of us call that attempted murder. We were newly divorced.

Life was never the same there after

From 2013 to 2017, I was in and out of the courtrooms in Canyon & Ada county fighting for my safety and the safety of my kids.

Then on 9/11/2017 he killed his elderly parents in their Nampa home.

The next 2 years focused on a new set of court issues and a continuous need for individual therapy, family therapy, and group therapy. My kids lost their dad and their grandparents that day.

The stress of deep, deep grief, fear of the future, raising kids, and taking good care of patients at work was too much.

I thought maybe I could get short term assistance from our state: disability or unemployment but there is no provision for domestic violence or survivors of homicide. So, I kept working.

But it nearly killed me, literally.

The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd postponement of the trial came and went and time compounded all the stress. My mom said to me one day, "I'm afraid this job is going to kill you." I was 45 years old, but I still knew when to listen to my mom.

I left my beloved job. I received no child support, no victim's compensation, no severance. Just a few days later, my gall bladder went out and I needed emergency surgery. Stress had to have played a part.

I moved right into a new part time job until the trial was over and I now work full-time at that same small non-profit. While I love the work I do now, S1019 would have provided me a safety net; a hand up

in a highly stressful time of life. What if my mom could not have helped me financially? We would have become homeless.

1 in 3 women and 1 in 7 men are victims of domestic violence. There are so many Idahoans like me. Please, pass this bill to show your support of their needs. It is one small step in taking care of our neighbors with a hand up. Honestly, I hope this is just the first step of many to show Idaho survivors that we see, hear, and love them. I'm pleased to also share that just last month I completed my master's degree after having to stop and restart it based on my husband's abuse. I wrote my thesis about public health policy and our great state. I hope to work with you in future on some of those other topics.

I listened to the introduction of this bill and heard some questions there – I am more than happy to answer any questions you have of me today. Thank you