

Submitter: Ernest Yagger
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB3513

March 25, 2023

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Wallan, and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Ernest Yagger. I am a resident of Polk County. I am asking for the committee to support the passage of HB 3513 and advance the bill to the house floor.

I am one of the all to many persons who have lost a family member to firearm suicide, I was at his home when my father took his own life. You cannot overstate the devastation that this has caused to my family. Enactment of HB 3513 will allow others to not suffer the same fate.

HB 3513 as law would have given my father the ability to separate himself from his handgun.

Living several hundred miles away from a family member afforded him no place to store his firearm at his time of crisis. An available storage place could have made a difference.

Adding a suicide awareness component to my father's Concealed Handgun Permit training also may have made a difference.

I have had the privilege to work with some of the groups that have crafted HB 3513. The intent was and is simply to save lives, not as a "gun control law", but as a suicide prevention law. I believe preventing this type of tragedy is a human issue, something far beyond partisan politics. HB 3513 gives a person in crisis the choice to separate themselves from their firearms. That option will save lives.

Again I ask for the committee to support the passage of HB 3513 and advance the bill to the house floor.

I thank the committee for it's time and consideration,

Ernest Yagger

