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Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee In Support of SB265

March 6, 2023

Chair Warren and Committee Members:

Our associations support SB265 increasing penalties for repeat violations of a protective order as that term is defined in existing law. Protective orders are meant to protect a person from the acts of another person. Disobedience to these orders is a serious and knowing violation of the order. Too frequently, these violations escalate into physical injury to the protected person. The more often the order is violated, the more likely violence will occur. A person that violates these orders multiple times clearly knows they are in violation of the order and subject to criminal penalties.

The protected person of these orders is deserving of relief from actions of the person the order is issued against. When the offender of the order violates that order, it heightens the concern of the protected person for their safety causing considerable fear and emotional distress. We believe the increased penalties for second and subsequent violations is not only justified but is a necessary step to discourage the person from future violations.

We encourage you to approve this bill favorably.

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