

January 29, 2024

Good Afternoon, Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Stephanie Wilkinson. I am the surviving spouse of Judge Andrew F. Wilkinson.

I am writing to ask you to support SB0575, the Protection of Personal Information (Judge Andrew F. Wilkinson Judicial Security Act).

At a minimum, we know the man who murdered my husband began searching the internet for information on him in July 2023. If specific measures had been in place, somebody using a credible commercial solution could have prevented this with an alert to the proper authorities. Such a program does exist to help protect our judiciary and others like you. However, passing this bill is the first step.

I am devastated that I lost my husband, but my heart is beyond broken that my children have lost their father. Naturally, I do not want others to suffer a preventable work-related attack if the capability exists.

Our family is the victim of an attack on a cornerstone of our country - our judicial process. If we do not step in and offer our judiciary the protection and privacy they should have, we will surely water down the strength of the judicial system by getting less qualified candidates to fill the positions.

Judges from all over the United States, even a United States Supreme Court Justice, have reached out to me with condolences. Eyes from across the nation are on this matter. Therefore, I hope you and your committee members take the first step in raising the bar to protect our judiciary members with the support of this bill. I also trust that by doing so, my children will know that their father did not die in vain.

Thank you for your consideration and please know you may reach out to me with questions for more specific details.

Warm Regards,

Stephanie Wilkinson