

HB 1586: Protective Orders - Coercive Control: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **support HB 1586**, concerning *Protective Orders – Coercive Control*.

Domestic abuse does not always take the form of physical violence. **Many victims experience patterns of coercive control that can include intimidation, isolation, financial manipulation, monitoring of communications, and other forms of psychological domination that severely restrict a person’s autonomy and safety.**

HB 1586 recognizes this reality by allowing courts to consider **coercive control as part of the basis for protective orders**. By acknowledging these patterns of behavior, the law can better reflect the full range of tactics used in abusive relationships and provide earlier intervention before situations escalate into physical harm.

Providing courts with the ability to evaluate coercive control helps ensure that individuals facing ongoing psychological or emotional abuse have meaningful access to legal protections. It also empowers judges to assess the broader context of a relationship rather than focusing solely on isolated incidents of physical violence.

Expanding and specifically defining the term “coercive control” will help law enforcement recognize the types of behavior and patterns of behavior that often begin the chilling progress of abuse. Strengthening protective order laws in this way can help safeguard victims, support families, and provide law enforcement and the courts with clearer tools to address complex domestic abuse situations.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **support HB 1586**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals