

February 7, 2018

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Vince Harris, I am a 60 year old professional business man and have lived my entire life in Oregon. I have never been in trouble with the law.

My story starts about 6 years ago when my wife left me after 35 years of marriage for another man. This boyfriend of hers was a private investigator and we all knew each other prior to my wife and I getting married. I had never liked him and he had never liked me. Even though we were divorced I still had some contact with my ex-wife to discuss matters of our family. I still loved my wife and had hopes that someday she would change her mind and come back to me and the kids. This didn't set well with her boyfriend and he somehow convinced her to file a Protective Order against me. At the time I had no idea what a Protective Order was and what it entailed. I soon learned that I could have my hunting rifle taken away and I would never be able to go hunting with my family again. Thankfully current law allowed me to contest the order and in court the judge verbally chastised my wife for using the courts as a means to get even with me and through the order out for a baseless filing.

The act of filing the order was not something my wife would have even known about let alone contemplated in doing. She was not angry at me. It was the boyfriend who, from a previous relationship had not only a Protective Order against him but also a Restraining Order, that talked her into making the filing. He wanted to end all her contact with me and to use the courts to take my rights away as a final punch in the stomach to me.

If this same situation were to occur under the law that is being proposed right now than it wouldn't be my ex-wife filing an order, but a vindictive boyfriend, who as a private investigator, would have more experience at making the filing. Under this proposed law I wouldn't have an opportunity to defend myself in court to prove that I wasn't a threat and I didn't violate any laws. And yet my rights would be taken away from me without any proven threat, but only an accusation of a perceived threat.

I understand the reasoning behind the proposed law, but in the desire to protect the families of those who are really threatened, you also suck up those who are law abiding citizens and take their rights away. In my case I didn't do anything wrong. Under this law it wouldn't have mattered, I would have been guilty by accusations.

Please do not pass this law. I love going hunting with my boys and my dad. It is one of the few things that bond us together. I would hate to think that one person's accusation would take that away forever.

Thank you,

Vince Harris

