

Honorable Senators:

I unreservedly support SB 177 as it progresses through Senate process. Forgive my reply subsequent to your hearing of March 16th, due to unforeseen scheduling. As a Judge in the Sparks Municipal Court, I see nearly innumerable domestic violence cases every week, and the more so during the pandemic. In my experience, victims (and I should add who have been victimized incessantly before their case arises in my court) are devastated in every feature of their lives and their children's lives—physically, psychologically, financially, socially and on and on. I often can scarcely bear thinking about the intensity of their pain and plight. I have done extensive graduate work at UNR and the National Judicial College on domestic violence, along with my judicial role, but have yet to comprehend the destructive acts of abusers. It is difficult to say whether victims' pasts, presents or futures are most tragically impacted. But for the victims' support organizations, funded by the marriage license fund, their lives would very literally be hopeless beyond repair. It is imperative that these organizations receive further support to sustain their imperative work, as well as to expand it into the front lines urgently needed in these and foreseeable times. I thank you for the seriousness you share about the supportive roles so many of us must perform in confronting and conquering domestic violence.

Sincerely,
James Spoo
Sparks Municipal Court Judge