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URGENT: please support Senator Iwamoto's Resolution Encouraging Public Safety for Crime Victims During COVID-19 Pandemic

LECJ Interim Committee:

Thank you so much for including me in the upcoming LECJ Interim Committee this Tuesday; unfortunately I am unable to attend as I will be rafting somewhere in the middle of the state. As a novice rafter with a serious fear of bears, I would appreciate any thoughts or prayers you may be able to send my way.

As you know, while we understand the challenges facing our jails and prisons during this crisis time, UDVC is strongly in support of her **Resolution Encouraging Public Safety for Crime Victims During COVID-19 Pandemic** to address the needs of survivors when considering the release of people who are convicted of violent crimes including domestic and sexual violence. We encourage you to consider the following data from the Utah Department of Health and ask that you please vote in favor of this important resolution:

Between 2010 and 2013, **at least 42% of adult homicides** in Utah were domestic violence related.

Between 2010 and 2013:

- 88% of domestic violence homicide **perpetrators were male**
- A firearm was the weapon** in 59% of the cases
- 39% of perpetrators had a **criminal domestic violence history**
- 22% of these murderers were **previously ordered to "treatment"** by the court
- In 22% of the cases, **children were either involved or witnessed** the homicide
- 34% of the **perpetrators died by suicide** after the homicide

Between 2010 and 2013, there was an active protective order in only 2% of the domestic violence homicides perpetrated.

Domestic and sexual violence can be easily overlooked as less violent, isolated crimes that are limited in reach and severity. However, this data and the realities we are experiencing since the onset of C19 in March have proven that individuals who perpetrate domestic and sexual violence are an exceptional risk not only to their family members but also to our communities, including law enforcement who recently lost an officer in Ogden who was responding to a violent perpetrator of family violence with a long, repeated history of escaping justice and posing a high risk.

I will be back in cell and email correspondence June 22nd and welcome your thoughts and questions any time. Thank you so much for your service and for your consideration of these costly tragedies in communities throughout our state. I hope you and your families are healthy and safe, and I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

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