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**Judiciary Committee
Senate
Michigan Legislature
Lansing, MI**

Sent via email to: cplatte@senate.michigan.gov

Dear Committee Members:

I would like to attend the hearing today, October 13, on Senate Bill 442. I am unable to do so.

I would like to share with the Judiciary Committee my experience at the wrong end of a gun. In 1977, some fellows followed me out of a store, pulled a gun on me and stuck me in the trunk of my car. I spent the next five hours listening to my abductors talk about what to do and whether I would live. At one point, they put a knife at my throat and pulled back on it. I thought I was being executed. Thankfully, I was not. I learned what terror feels like. I understand the dangers being created by the bills that will allow more guns into more places. I would like to share that with you. Unfortunately, I cannot attend the hearing.

Notice of the Tuesday, October 13, hearing was given on Friday, October 9, two business days before the hearing. As I researched Senate Bill 442, I learned that the bill's sponsor had been working and meeting with the NRA and other gun advocate groups since early July. A copy of the bill was posted on one of the group's websites at least as early as July 6. The bill's sponsor had been working with those groups for at least 100 days on the bill before the hearing.

The gun advocate groups had 100 days to get ready for this hearing. It is unfair that most Michigan citizens who have been at the other end of guns did not have adequate advance notice to prepare for the hearing. As a result, there may be more guns circulating in Michigan, to be pulled on other citizens like myself.

I will not be able to attend the hearing. I will not be able to testify. The reason is simple. I had no idea that the hearing would be held until last Friday, October 9, when the hearing was formally announced. I have a schedule conflict that I have not been able to resolve since October 9. Had I been given even a week's notice, I would have been to make arrangements to attend and testify at the hearing.

I would think that the Judiciary Committee would want to hear from citizens like myself who have lived the kind of tragedy that this bill creates. Apparently it does not. I am disappointed. I am especially disappointed because the Judiciary Committee has some responsibility for

government oversight of justice in the state. Due process requires notice and an opportunity to be heard. Ordinary citizens are being denied both notice and an opportunity by the Judiciary Committee.

It is troubling that monied interests such as the NRA (with what Guidestar describes as receiving \$347 million annually) are given months of time, 100 days in fact, to prepare for this hearing, but average citizens get a mere two business days. As a citizen who has been directly affected by the gun issue in my personal life, I know that notice matters. It is disturbing that the Committee gives such a huge advantage to one side. It is even more disturbing that the committee that did this is the committee with oversight responsibilities for justice, due process, in the state.

Many citizens, including myself, cannot rearrange our schedules on two days notice to appear at the hearing on October 13. When may I share my experience with the members of the Judiciary Committee? When may I testify before the committee? When may other citizens who are concerned about more guns being introduced into our schools, day cares, hospitals and other "gun free zones" be heard? When can we be heard?

Many of us who have been at the wrong ends of the guns that this bill seeks to introduce into the "gun free zones." When will the Judiciary Committee give us adequate notice and an opportunity to be heard?

Sincerely

Lee Tilson