

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member,

I thank you for holding this Member Day hearing and for the opportunity to submit my testimony for the record before the House Judiciary Committee.

As elected representatives, it is absolutely essential that we fight to uphold the values of liberty and justice for all that are enshrined in our founding documents, including the Constitution. One of my top priorities in Congress is to defend the safety and security of Iowa families. Today I want to discuss two issues that fall into this bucket.

Part of looking out for Iowan's safety and security is caring for those who have suffered from violent crimes and working to ensure they have access to critical services to help them and their families recover from a traumatic crime.

In northeast Iowa, we have several excellent non-profit organizations that care for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and other horrific crimes. I recently held a live conversation with Teresa Davidson from Chains Interrupted, a nonprofit based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, that combats human trafficking to help inform my constituents about the important services they provide. Chains Interrupted offers counseling and housing programs, educational services, and training to help detect and prevent human trafficking; the organization receives funding through the federal Crime Victims Fund.

However, the funding for these programs has been recently reached critical lows, with the Iowa Crime Victims Fund projected to reach a ten-year low. Providers have been forced to roll back services, and in some cases, close their doors for good.

I was proud to cosponsor the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act, and am grateful that Congress was able to step in and act so organizations like Chains Interrupted can continue their essential work.

I've met with Iowans who are victims of horrific crimes. Their harrowing stories are the reason why I'm here today, advocating for resources that will help them recover and rebuild their lives.

It is vital that we continue to support programs to combat these horrendous crimes, and I look forward to continued bipartisan cooperation on this front.

Another issue important to the safety and security of Iowans is the preservation of Second Amendment rights.

The Constitution is clear, and Iowan's Second Amendment rights have been under attack by the Biden Administration ever since he was sworn in to office. By nominating a gun control advocate to the ATF and expanding the National Firearms Act, President Biden has demonstrated his disregard for the Second Amendment.

From pushing policies like universal background checks, indefinite delays on firearm purchases, and red flag laws, Congressional Democrats have followed his lead, seeking to infringe on the rights of law-abiding gun owners time after time. They have brought gun control bills to the House floor that would threaten the ability of Iowans to defend themselves and their families. I believe this is unproductive, and worse – it is unsafe.

In a time where radicals are pushing proposals to defund the police and a crime wave is sweeping across the nation, it is more important than ever to uphold law abiding gun owners' Second Amendment rights.

It's backwards that some of my colleagues want to make it harder for law abiding Americans to own firearms, rather than cracking down on crime, or supporting the law enforcement officers who keep illegal weapons and criminals off our streets.

I hope we can find common ground on ways to support the safety and security of Iowans and Americans, and I yield back.