

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 09-1179

BY ERIN K. GRAY

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Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about House Bill 09-1179.

My name is Erin Gray. I am a participant of Colorado's Address Confidentiality Program, speaking on behalf of myself and other program participants.

I support House Bill 09-1179 because I have learned from experience how essential it is to ensure the safety of the program participants and those with whom they live.

I have been stalked since 1998. Unfortunately, the stalker has many resources, which have allowed him to not only stalk me himself, but also hire others to hunt me down.

Like you, I was a successful professional person. I owned several properties, had a credit rating in the 800's and was an active volunteer within the community. But back in 1998, there was no Address Confidentiality Program. I was stalked and attacked until I finally suffered a severe spinal injury and became disabled. I literally lost everything.

He harassed and stalked my family too. I could not safely stay with them, not even to recover from spinal surgery. When my grandparents died unexpectedly, confidential files they had stored for me were stolen from their home and storage.

For a time, I was engaged. My fiancée bought a house so we would have a place to start fresh at an address my stalker did not know. My stalker hired people to make calls pretending to be looking for me for a high school reunion and learned of my engagement and my fiancée's name. He then tracked us down to the new address and threatened my fiancée. This ended our engagement and I was forced to relocate once again.

Friends were now too frightened to offer me refuge in their homes. My stalker didn't only track my family; he tracked my friends' addresses too. Everyone was afraid of him, with good reason. He had the financial and networking resources to terrorize both them and me and to carry through and get away with his criminal actions.

Because I had no safe place to go and staying with others endanger them too, I was forced to live in women's shelters when they were not full, to live in my tent and to live in my car - sometimes for weeks or months at a time. This was particularly difficult due to the disabilities and poverty the stalker created and the fact that I am not a street savvy person.

From time to time, I found a landlord willing to rent to me. Until the Address Confidentiality Program, I was found, harassed and stalked again, forcing me to relocate

time and time again. Not only could I not stay with family or friends, now landlords were turning me away saying my presence endangered the other tenants. Being attacked and stalked for years into homelessness nearly destroyed me.

Stalkers can easily track down addresses. One site, [www.intelius.com](http://www.intelius.com), offers a list of household members. Household members are not necessarily blood-related family members. They can be fiancées, friends and roommates. Since stalkers locate family easily, many turn to finding refuge with friends. But it is becoming easier for stalkers to obtain the names and addresses of *anyone* with whom one lives.

House Bill 09-1179 is such an important bill. If this bill had been in effect earlier, I would have had a safe place to live. If this bill had been in effect earlier, I would not have exhausted every resource relocating each time he tracked me to a friend's home. If this bill had been in effect earlier, my friends would not have been threatened.

House Bill 09-1179 will literally save lives.

Thank you.

The screenshot shows the Intelius website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Intelius logo and the tagline "Live in the know." To the right, there are links for "Sign In to Intelius | Manage Account" and "View My Reports". Below the navigation bar, there are four main service categories: "Verification Services" (Background Check, Reverse Phone Lookup, Property & Neighborhood), "Information Services" (People Search, Email Searches, Business People Search), "Protection Services" (Reverse Cell Phone Directory, Identity Protection, Criminal & Sex Offender), and "Business Services" (Employee & Tenant Screening, Custom Solutions, All Products & Services). The "People Search" section is highlighted. It features a search form with fields for "Name" (First Name, MI, Last Name), "Address", "Phone", "Email", and "Social Security #". There is a "State" dropdown menu set to "All States" and a "Search" button. Below the search button is a link for "Advanced Search". To the right of the search form, there is a section titled "What is a People Search?" with a brief description: "People Search is great way to find and reconnected with family, old friends, relatives -- just about anyone! People Search reports include phone numbers, address history, ages, birthdays, household members, home value, income and more." At the bottom of the page, there are three promotional banners: "IdentityProtect", "Get Your Free Credit Report" (with sub-points: Free Credit Reports, 10% Off Intelius Purchases, Reduce Junk Mail, Reduce Credit Card Offers), and "More Intelius Products" (with sub-points: 10% Off Cards, Reverse Phone Lookup).