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Chairman Larson and Committee Members,

Thank you for holding this hearing on Assembly Bill 473, which will implement the Uniform Interstate Enforcement of Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act in Wisconsin (UIEDVPOA) by consolidating current state law and creating the additional statutory language necessary to make it effective. I am pleased to join Senators Risser and Wanggaard in bringing forward this solid bi-partisan legislation, which has already been enacted in 18 states, along with the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands and is an initiative of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and supported by the American Bar Association.

This legislation is about giving victims the protection that they need and deserve regardless of where the protection order was granted. The UIEDVPOA establishes uniform procedures that enable courts to recognize and enforce valid domestic protection orders issued in other jurisdictions, and do so in the way that was intended by the issuing jurisdiction, ensuring the full “faith and credit” of the federal Violence Against Women Act is protected and avoiding confusion in interstate enforcement. UIEDVPOA has been amended to cover orders arising under an issuing state’s anti-stalking laws, such as Wisconsin’s.

Specifically, AB 473 requires that courts and law enforcement must enforce the terms of valid protection orders from other states as if they were entered by the enforcing state, until the order expires. All terms of the order are to be enforced. An individual may, but is not required to register a foreign protection order with the enforcing state to prevent possible challenges and facilitate effective enforcement. Law enforcement officers, government agencies, prosecuting attorneys, clerks of court or other officials are protected from civil and criminal liability for enforcement of a protection order in good faith. Tony Gibart from End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin is also here today to answer technical questions.

Thank you for your consideration of AB 473.