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**Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee
In Support of SB113 – Burglary Of Dwelling to Persons Crime
February 8, 2017**

Chairman Wilborn and Committee Members,

Our associations support SB113. Victims of residential burglaries will tell you it is one of the worst crimes for losing a sense of security in your home. Victims are often traumatized for long periods of times after these crimes. Victims feel violated as personal space is infringed and keepsakes and other articles are stolen, damaged, or explored by burglars.

From a Psychology Today Article, *Beating the Burglary Blues*:

"The majority of victims say they will never have the same feeling of security and inviolability that they had in the past," reports Billie Corder, Ed.D., a psychiatrist at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine.

Corder found that half [of home burglary victims] described the experience as feeling "like a violation or rape." The rape metaphor, used even by some men, may sound melodramatic. But for the study's middle-class subjects, most previously untouched by crime, the fact that a stranger violated the sanctity of their abode was unnerving.

The feelings of violation led several women to wash all of their clothes after a burglar had rummaged through them. One laundered everything three times. And in a third of adults, sleeplessness and anxiety lingered four or more months after the break-in.

But kids were especially shaken by the experience. One first-grader began hiding favorite toys before leaving for school each day."

Burglaries of dwellings too frequently become physical encounters when the resident returns home surprising a burglar in their home. These are very dangerous crimes."

We believe "persons crime" is the appropriate classification for these acts.

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