

Thank you for the privilege to testify before this committee.

My name is Mary Zesiewicz. I am an MD Psychiatrist who resides and practices in Colorado Springs. I care for soldiers and their families and am proud to have been raised in a military family. For the record, my pen name is Zennett.

Besides direct patient care, I spend a great deal of time advocating for patient safety. As of late there are so many potential violations of patient safety through well intentioned but misguided public policies, I founded an organization, "Colorado Nullifies Injustice". If there is a law that directly or indirectly risks harm to others, and violated the U.S. Consitution, we declare it, Null and Void through the Tenth Amendment. Indefinite detention written into the NDAA clearly violates our most basic civil liberties, protected by the Bill of Rights. We seek state legislative support to nullify the unjust law. It is difficult for us to even imagine how unjust laws even get on the books. My years in mental health have helped me immeasurably in that regard. So as we talk today about NDAA, please allow me to share with you my observations. In no way am I qualified to recommend to you details about military tactics and strategies. My specialty is people. I know how the human mind works, I know how people think, I know how public opinion takes shape and form.

In recent years, I've noticed that we have become a very divisive culture. There is a great deal of labeling of people groups, disparaging remarks, even profiling. As a doctor, I can assure you these profiles are useless, even harmful. At work, we must skillfully assess each person as an individual, identify their vulnerabilities and help them refocus on their unique strengths, talents and gifts. People do not seek medical care wearing little bracelets identifying themselves as 'liberal', 'progressive', 'patriot' or 'Constitutionalist'. They are people. And all people are to be treated with the utmost dignity and respect.

Over the years I have heard of organizations that do a lot of profiling of Americans. One such group is the Southern Poverty Law Center. Every year, the SPLC compiles a list of Active "Patriot" groups in the U.S. and they state:

"Generally, Patriot groups define themselves as opposed to the "New World Order," engage in groundless conspiracy theorizing, or advocate or adhere to extreme antigovernment doctrines." With respects, I have been alarmed at the blanket profiling of organizations included in this list. As a psychiatrist, I do not hold credence to groundless conspiracy theorizing, in fact, we have terms and treatment for such theorizing that interferes with an individual's basic level of functioning. But I can attest that there are many wonderful citizens of high integrity, solid moral character who do not fit the bill in any way shape or form of such senseless profiling that are included in the SPLC's list. These people are not extreme antigovernment. They call for honest and transparent government. No different than calling for honest and just laws.

Personally, I never gave this list much credence. That is, until I learned that the Southern Poverty Law Center works directly with the Dept of Homeland Security. The CEO of the SPLC is now a member of the DHS "Working Group on Countering Violent Extremism". This group makes recommendations on training and how to utilize resources to fight 'extremism'. This includes police, social services, media, NGO's and yes- military.

I have already shared with you the inaccuracies of the profiling on the SPLC list of patriot groups. It is not difficult to see, however, that with the SPLC's influence how innocent people could easily get harmed by this profiling. You in the military know this better than I. But as an American citizen,

knowing what I know about the integrity of individuals placed on this list, I am deeply alarmed. My greatest concern is that Americans of strong moral character will be targeted for no just cause. I may add that the SPLC has a disclaimer on this list that "Listing here does not imply that the groups themselves advocate or engage in violence or other criminal activities, or are racist."

Then why are these individuals and groups being profiled? The SPLC's tactics here are highly discriminatory, in fact, for all their talk about combating hate speech, represent reverse discrimination, false and damaging accusations.

Without a full transparent investigation of the Dept of Homeland Security's role and intentions in targeting innocent Americans, NDAA must be declared Null and Void. The military does not need NDAA to fulfill its obligations to defend and protect Americans from all enemies foreign or domestic. But government agencies can easily use NDAA to wrongfully detain innocent Americans as an abuse of power. This must be halted immediately. It would also be helpful to learn the level and the extent of financial support SPLC has received from government funds. It is estimated the net worth of SPLC is \$100 million.

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has been rated "poor" by [Charity Navigator](#), stating that net assets were \$152 million.

These are taxpayer dollars that are supporting the wrongful profiling of innocent Americans. Thank you for your time and attention to this pressing matter involving the wrongful profiling and targeting of innocent Americans. I strongly urge you to pass HB13-1045. Thank you.

Dr Mary Zennett