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**From:** Veronica Murray [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 1:49 AM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Cc:** Greenough, Lisa; Veronica Murray  
**Subject:** Bill 27 a victim's perspective

I would like the opportunity to voice my concerns as Nova Scotia's Law Amendments Committee meets regarding Bill 27. I am one of only 10 victims whose cyberbullying case was taken to court under the previous legislation and I believe that Cyberscan's role in the process was crucial; their ability to investigate my complaint, meet with the cyberbully and make application for a court order was the beginning of the end of my nightmare. It is important to note that my case also went to criminal court and the cyberbully was also found guilty of criminal harassment, and if I had been made to wait for that process to get relief I would have been subject to attack for over an additional year.

As I read about the new legislation, I am pleased that there will be something in place but feel that the law ties the hands of the Cyberscan unit and my experience tells me that is where the bulk of change was happening when the previous legislation was in place.

I think the new rules governing Cyberscan's role fail to appreciate the state of victims and the powerlessness that cyberbullying creates in victims. The goal of the cyberbully is to beat down their victim, and they take great pains to ensure that victims are degraded, humiliated and generally distraught. The tactics taken are generally very successful. Without the Cyberscan unit initiating meetings and following up with the application to court my cyberbullying would not have stopped because I would not have had the personal fortitude to do the things necessary to get a court order. I believe this legislation fails victims because the underlying assumption is that victims have the capacity to investigate, enforce or make court applications as Cyberscan will have been stripped of these authorities.

I had the misfortune of being targeted by a relentless cyber bully, but then isn't that what makes the offender a bully is their relentless nature? For 2 years I was tortured with baseless accusations, vile descriptors of me and my family and occasionally a rallying cry from the cyberbully that he and his audience should ensure that I pay for what he perceived as my indiscretions. These posts were spewed on social media for all to see. I placed calls to police who then contacted the offender: he posted mockingly on social media. Cyberscan called and met with him during their investigation: he posted vile messages about me and the investigator. He did not show up to court where the order was granted and despite the order continued to post on social media. After breaching the court order, he received a warning and I finally got some peace ....until the law was repealed at which time he was once again posting about me on social media until a criminal court order prevented him from doing so.

Without the Cyberscan investigator taking the necessary steps to have an order granted, what could I possibly have done to protect myself and my family? I can assure you that with the onslaught of cyberbullying I have experienced( several hundred pages of social media posts were presented as part of my affidavit in court) my mental state left me unable to self-advocate. I ask you as legislators, what good is a law that requires a victim to do the leg work of investigators and make applications to court when you are so beaten down you are paralyzed?I say this not as a vulnerable teenager (which let be honest people believe it's just a teenagers problem), I say this as a 46 year old university-educated professional who was so traumatized by cyberbullying that my only option was to abdicate my personal power. Fortunately for me, Cyberscan was able to step in and move things forward in the courts.

So, while I am unable to be in Halifax to attend, I would like my voice heard and I am begging you to please reconsider Cyberscan's role in the new legislation. The legislation is not the problem, the role that Cyberscan is relegated to playing needs to be reevaluated. I'm not saying they need Carte Blanche, but in my opinion

they need the authority to investigate and make application to the court; they need to be able to advocate for victims who have been made powerless by a cyberbully attack.

I appreciate the opportunity to have my voice heard,  
Veronica Murray