

TO: John.Hultquist@house.mn.gov

FROM: Marc Olivier

RE: MN House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee Hearings on HF 13

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HF 13 (Stand Your Ground and Elimination of Duty To Retreat provisions).

I support of HF13, the Stand Your Ground (and Elimination of Duty To Retreat) bill. I am a senior citizen with chronic and persistent medical issues. I am unable to flee a violent confrontation and am not able to physically resist a violent confrontation unarmed. It is therefore extremely unrealistic for the State to put the burden entirely on me to avoid violence if a violent situation develops that targets me through no fault of my own.

An example: My primary care physician is stationed at a clinic in the Midway area. I was not informed that the clinic had been targeted by unruly individuals before I went to appointments. Upon leaving one day, an unknown individual, much younger and moving quickly with ease, approached me demanding cigarettes, and began to follow me to my car. I told him I don't smoke and said nothing else, just kept walking. He continued following me so I reached into my pocket. He broke off and went away. I did NOT have a weapon as the clinic prohibits weapons. That was on situation.

Another situation, I arrived to the same clinic for another appointment. Another individual was being extremely disruptive and began being physically aggressive with security and was escorted off the premises as I was entering. Once outside, the individual did not leave right away, but my appointment led me away from hearing or seeing if anything else transpired.

I consider such bans and the duty to retreat unacceptable and unreasonable under circumstances where someone opts to be threatening and aggressive for no reason. It is much worse when these conditions develop in areas where others are present who are more likely than not to be unable to respond by quickly fleeing violent encounters.

I urge the Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee to approve HF 13 Stand Your Ground bill and remove Duty To Retreat requirement(s) from Statute and accepted Case Law.