

Our nation is founded on that all of us are equal in rights, that we have the right to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness. When someone violates laws or the rights of others it is customary that that individual may lose rights such as when they are imprisoned or penalized. The duty to retreat works oppositional to this tradition in that it places the rights of someone who would rob Minnesotan's of those rights above the criminal. Some might say that if you just comply you may be better off but equally so a person may do everything and still lose their life as shown recently when a man in Burnsville merely looked out his window and was immediately shot in the jaw by a criminal who was breaking into a vehicle as reported by Fox9 only 6 days ago.

When a person is a victim of a violent criminal act they could lose their life if forced to flee before defending themselves it puts them in a position of extreme vulnerability as they must turn their back to a threat. A coworker of mine has been scared recently as a man tried to break into her home as she was alone, she is often home alone and often spends time in our state's parks hiking alone. Rulings like duty to retreat place her and many others in an even more vulnerable situation. We need to end the duty to retreat in Minnesota and stop putting the welfare of those that would rob Minnesotan's of their right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness above victims and those who respect and work within our communities. Friends and those I know from both sides politically all agree that the duty to retreat is ridiculous and hurts our state.

-Gregory Komadina

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Komadina', with a long, sweeping underline.