

Bryan Strawser
Roseville, Minnesota

Rep. Paul Novotny
Chair, House Public Safety Finance and Policy
Minnesota House of Representatives
2nd Floor – Centennial Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Written Testimony of Bryan Strawser on House File 13 – Duty to Retreat Elimination

Chair Novotny & Members of the Committee,

I've lived in Minnesota for 20 years, and as a small business owner and father of two daughters, my family's safety is my top priority.

While I don't live in fear, I do carry a firearm for self-defense. I fully understand that this comes with serious responsibility, which is why I constantly stay updated on Minnesota's laws and related court decisions. If I ever have to use force, I'm committed to following these laws and upholding my responsibilities as a lawful gun owner.

To lawfully use force in Minnesota, in a split second, I must mentally process the following court cases to ensure that my actions are legal under Minnesota law and court precedents:

- State v. Johnson (1967)
- State v Baker (1968)
- State v Basting (1997)
- State v Pendleton (1997)
- State v Hicks (1998)
- State v Carothers (1999)
- State v Glowacki (2001)
- State v Devens (2014)
- State v Blevins (2024)
- State v Valdez (2024)

If I get this split-second calculus wrong, I will have protected my family, but I'll face potential prosecution and a prison sentence.

I support House File 13 because this bill, in a very straightforward manner, removes the requirement to retreat from a self-defense situation. In doing so, it negates the mental gymnastics that I and other peaceable Minnesotans must perform to protect ourselves and our families from a violent attack.

I want to be clear: I never want to use force against another person.

I do, however, want to be able to defend my family and myself with reasonable force when confronted with the fear of imminent death or great bodily harm without fear of prosecution because I missed one of the 10+ court precedents here in Minnesota.

I urge you to support House File 13 in committee and on the House floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryan Strawser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bryan" being more prominent than the last name "Strawser".

Bryan Strawser