

Chair and members of the committee,

I am opposed to SB 554. The bill to limit or preclude affirmative defense for concealed carry permittees effectively says a person may not defend themselves with a concealed weapon against another person's unlawful use of force. By definition, the law-abiding citizen, the person with the concealed carry permit, is controlled by the law and the lawbreaker is not. Therefore, this bill is not aimed at stopping unlawful use of a weapon.

This bill infringes on the concealed carry permit holder's right to bear arms.

Further, this bill would create a huge disadvantage for law-abiding citizens should they be faced with the terrible prospect of having to defend their lives against someone who has no regard for the law and threatens them with unlawful force.

Concealed carry permittees pass tests that screen for the potential for breaches of conduct. They demonstrate knowledge, skill and intent to act within the law.

I am in favor of the current standards for qualifying for concealed carry and for using those weapons responsibly for self-defense should it become necessary.

I am against making it more difficult for law-abiding citizens to protect themselves.