

Submitter: Tom Hope
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2572

I oppose HB2572.

We have all seen on local and national news that when a riot breaks out, police are either ordered to stand down or they are too busy to protect victims. When people bent on violence come your way, you are on your own. We just saw that. And we also saw, to our horror, that many of our own politicians remained silent on the violence against innocents and their property, but spoke against people whose sole crime was self-defense when there was nobody to help them. We also see that parts of our state have become a magnet for homeless. Our "no fault" drug laws have enabled and protected people with drug and mental health issues

The definitions of militia and such are too vague. In times of peace, they can be interpreted to apply to neighborhood watch groups who want to protect their families and property from violence and intruders. And when rioters attack stores, homes and people, this law will be used to prosecute people who defend themselves, rather than submit to beating, burning and looting.

There is a false dichotomy in the last few years of political discussion: Right wing violence or left wing violence. The real issue is violence versus self-protection. Please don't enable zealous political prosecution of self-defense. Others will argue constitutionality. I am arguing the morality of prosecuting innocent people whose sole crime is trying to not be beaten and robbed by rioters or violent drug addicts.