

SB 928: Legalizes Murder and Vigilantism

Information you need to know to protect your self against this dangerous legislation . . .

SB 928 is NOT Self-Defense

In North Carolina every citizen has the right to use deadly force to defend themselves or their families. If someone protects themselves with force they will not be prosecuted as long as they had no opportunity to retreat. There are no individuals in jail anywhere in the country who are in jail for acting in legitimate self-defense. SB 928 removes this “duty to retreat” and is an invitation to reckless use of guns in the streets of our cities and towns. This new law would eliminate a citizen's duty to avoid the threat, and allows the use of deadly force before other options.

Where Does Your Castle End?

SB 928 often referred to as the “Castle Doctrine” implies that this legislation applies only to a home or residence. However SB 928 extends past the individual’s home to “any other place where he or she has a right to be” – which thereby includes nearly all public places. The shooter could receive immunity for shooting recklessly into a crowd, as long as he reasonably believed he was in serious danger. If passed this “Shoot First” law will not only permit shooting in our streets, the shooter will not be prosecuted for any death or injury whether to a hardened criminal or a helpless child who was only a by-stander.

Encourages and Excuses Vigilantism

America’s police officers undergo months of intensive training to learn the judicious use of deadly force in a public setting. They learn, through that training that the use of deadly force in public is excruciatingly dangerous, and that innocent bystanders can easily be injured or killed. SB 928 would immediately deputize anyone with a weapon to take on a criminal in potentially crowded public settings. Police leaders and prosecutors in numerous states are concerned these laws will send a message of empowerment to the most aggressive individuals in society – that rather than serve to defend people who use deadly force in a truly life-threatening situation, it will serve as an excuse to edgy individuals.

Who Does this Bill Endanger? You.

This bill provides protection for someone using deadly force -- it provides no protections for the innocent victims caught in the crossfire. Worse yet this legislation directly threatens North Carolinians whose jobs require them to visit others homes and properties. For example a social worker on an unannounced home visit, a volunteer distributing materials door to door, or even a mailman delivering a package.

The Threat is Real.

After passing similar legislation in Florida:

Kenneth Allen, 58, twice shot his neighbor, Jason Rosenbloom, 30, in early June 2006. Rosenbloom went to Allen’s house about a complaint filed. *“I was no threat. I had no weapon... He had a gun. I turned around to put my hands up. He didn’t even say a word, and he fired once into my stomach. I bent over, and he shot me in the chest,” Rosenbloom told the New York Times. [New York Times, 8-7-06]*

Christopher Cote, 19, of The Acreage, Florida was shot twice with a shotgun and killed by his neighbor, Jose Tapanes, 62, September 17 after an argument began when Cote walked his dog on Tapanes’ property. Tapanes has been charged with first-degree murder and has argued that the new Florida law gave him the right to kill the teen. [Miami Herald, 9-18-06, <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/15545041.htm>]

In Colorado:

Gary Lee Hill got in an argument with a group of people at his house. There was a physical fight, but as the group of people drove away, Hill walked out away from his house with a gun, and shot one of the group, John Lee Knott, **in the back**. Mr. Hill was **found “not guilty”** according to the standards of Colorado’s “Shoot First” law.

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