

Toby Smith

From: Tom Clemons <tclemons@cityofseward.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 1:45 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Cc: Toby Smith
Subject: House Bill 24

Dear House Finance Committee Member,

In my capacity as President of the Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police, I am writing to express our unequivocal **non-support** of House Bill 24, *An Act relating to self-defense in any place where a person has a right to be.* Our Association is comprised of more than 100 law enforcement executives from all across Alaska, and we feel this Bill is just too over-reaching and has a high potential to create more problems than it might solve.

The existing law is quite sufficient and allows a person to protect themselves with deadly force when there is no other choice. We believe that when you have the opportunity to walk away you should do so, and not use deadly force just because you may wish to pursue that course of action. We think that this amendment gives inaccurate information to the public, i.e. that you can use deadly force even if you had the opportunity to walk away from the situation.

We should not forget the **Trayvon Martin case in Florida**. George Zimmerman had every opportunity to walk away from his situation and was even told to do so by the 911 operator, but instead continued on and propelled the situation into an unnecessary tragedy with deadly consequences. Adding this section to an already effective law will only degrade it, not enhance it.

We respectfully ask you **not** to vote for the amendment to House 24.



Chief Thomas Clemons

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Toby Smith

From: Walt Monegan <wmonegan@anjc.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 11:52 AM
To: Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Doug Isaacson; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Dan Saddler
Subject: HB 24

Honorable Representatives-

These are my initial thoughts regarding the proposed amendment on AS 11.81.335 (b) in adding subsection (5) *"in any other place where the person has a right to be."*

To begin, this proposed subsection changes what is now a clear and concise bright line of understanding into a broad and murky range that will not only shelter criminal acts of violence but promote confusion among those striving to interrupt its intent.

To the aspect of sheltering of criminal acts certainly includes acts of street violence amongst gang members, who enjoy the right to be on public streets, sidewalks, and alleys. And I suspect there may be sufficient examples of those "chance encounters;" or where opposing members who met to "discuss" territories, possessions, and/or market share who eventually will draw their weapons to "defend" themselves. But have you also considered the domestic situation where the husband claims he had been threatened by his wife and chose to "stand *his* ground?"

To the aspect of confusion; I have always believed that laws created for communal safety and harmony are most effective when they are clear and concise. The acceptance of the proposed subsection (5) blurs the intent and scope of this existing statute. As such it moves individuals' decision making process from their brain to their "gut;" from rationally analyzing a situation to emotionally reacting to one. I don't believe that is a good standard for a life and death decision.

So I ask that you not adopt this subsection as it is seemingly composed more from emotion, and less with moral principles; and one that eventually it will tend to weaken the value of life that we all hold dear.

Thank you-

Walt Monegan

An Alaskan Citizen

"There is nothing so gentle as great strength" - Anonymous American Indian Chief