

I am opposed to LD486 for the following reasons:

- It encourages a vigilante mentality (a shoot to kill now, ask questions later) attitude that is particularly dangerous in the current extremely divided climate in our state and country. Tensions between political, social, religious, racial, and economic groups are running high, and anger and violence are encouraged and celebrated by extremist leaders, including the President. Restraint is scorned as weak and ineffective. Bold, hasty, reckless action is lauded. LD 486 will only sanction volatile behavior and fan the flames of hatred and division.
- “Are you sure?” That’s the question we must ask ourselves, and if there is a hint of doubt, we must exercise caution, step back, and try to diffuse tensions. Only when we slow things down and examine our words and actions and those of the others involved can we come to a more accurate understanding of the actual degree of danger in a situation. We often cannot know the intentions of others. Jumping to conclusions leads to the wrong conclusion in many cases. Body language, dress, skin color, facial expression, and other physical characteristics are unreliable cues to intent and uncertain predictors of action. This law discourages giving others the benefit of the doubt.
- This law encourages us to value our own safety, life, property, and loved ones above the person we feel is dangerous to us. I firmly believe that all persons are equally and intrinsically valuable and must not be harmed or killed, particularly without conclusive proof that they intend to do harm.