

Rebekah Quere
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Dear Committee Members,

Maine has laws in place which already protect people from criminalization of self-defense. Adding "An Act To Ensure the Right to Self-defense Exists outside the Home by Removing the Requirement To Retreat" would be an egregious risk to the safety of not only bystanders, but innocent people whom could be shot because, for instance, someone is fearful of their life because the other person looks different from them. The one left alive gets to write the story. This may be a cynical view, but one need only read the NRA's magazine to recoil from the hope of many for bloodshed which is written in those pages.

There would be only one reason - logical reason - that a person would want to attack and shoot if there was an option of retreat (because why risk further escalation when you can run), and that is the person wants the opportunity to do harm to another, without consequence, and this law gives them that opportunity. I would say also, the line between perp and victim is wont to become blurry -

Now the abuser will have an out, even if attacking the abused outside the home ("I feared for my life", has this bill included a stipulation that someone with a restraining order can claim innocence under stand my ground; what about someone who rapes another and then shoots and kills them, claiming fear for their life). These seem perhaps unbelievable circumstances, but who would believe a kid in a hoodie with a pack of skittles would be murdered in a gated community where he lived part-time, and the murderer was found innocent because he perceived a threat.

Thank you for considering every possible and deadly consequence passage of this bill would have. Please do not believe this will make anyone in Maine safer.

Gun-owner, shooting enthusiast, but not of people,
Rebekah Quéré