



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030-7400

February 14, 2018

RE: RS26189- Self Defense- SUPPORT

Chair Siddoway and Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee,

On behalf of the National Rifle Association, I would like to express our support for RS26189. This important self-defense legislation would provide that a law-abiding person has "no duty to retreat" from an attack if the person is in any place the person has a right to be, and would also codify a legal presumption known as the "Castle Doctrine". The "Castle Doctrine" simply says that if a criminal breaks into your home, your occupied vehicle or your place of business, you may presume he is there to do bodily harm and you may use force against him.

Idaho's current self-defense law is found throughout statutes, case law, and jury instructions. RS26189 would consolidate and codify existing law to clearly protect the inherent right of a person to defend themselves. This legislation clarifies that in the exercise of self-defense, a law-abiding citizen may stand their ground and protect themselves or their family anywhere they have a legal right to be. RS26189 also protects the right of a person to defend himself against an intruder who enters the defender's home or business unlawfully or by force, without the defender having to demonstrate that he reasonably feared that the intruder was about to cause death or great bodily harm. The unlawful or forceful entry is enough to establish a legal presumption that the defender's fear of serious injury was reasonable—and, therefore, that his defense against the criminal was reasonable as well. This shifts the risk away from the defender—who would otherwise have to consider not just his assailant's actions, but also his assailant's motives—and puts that risk where it belongs, on the attacker.

Again I would ask you to support RS26189 to provide clear self-defense protections for the citizens of Idaho. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or to discuss this bill further.

Sincerely,

Keely Hopkins
NRA-ILA State Liaison