



**Brett Hudson Hillyer**  
State Representative, 51<sup>st</sup> House District

Chair Abrams and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to present sponsor testimony in support of House Bill 233, the Self-Defense Protection Act. This legislation is aimed at safeguarding individuals' rights to assert self-defense. Allow me to highlight the key components of the bill:

- **Pretrial Motion for Self-Defense:** The bill allows individuals to file a pretrial motion asserting self-defense, seeking the establishment of a rebuttable presumption in favor of their actions.
- **Mandatory Pretrial Hearing:** Upon the filing of a pretrial motion, the legislation mandates the court to conduct a pretrial hearing, ensuring a fair and comprehensive examination of the self-defense claim.
- **Granting Pretrial Motion:** If the individual presents evidence supporting self-defense by a preponderance of the evidence, the court is required to grant the pretrial motion.
- **Rebuttable Presumption at Trial:** In cases where the pretrial motion is granted, the trial goes on with a rebuttable presumption that the accused person acted in self-defense.
- **Self-Defense Assertion at Trial:** Individuals who did not file a pretrial motion or whose motion was denied are not precluded from asserting self-defense at trial.
- **Evidentiary Standard at Trial:** For those asserting self-defense at trial, the bill requires the presentation of prima facie evidence that tends to support that the accused person acted in self-defense.

This bill ensures that individuals who acted in self-defense receive a fair and just consideration in our legal system, upholding principles of justice and individual rights. I urge your support for House Bill 233, the Self-Defense Protection Act.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony.