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Senate Judiciary Committee
Senate Bill 32 — Sponsor Testimony
February 22, 2023

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 32.

Senate Bill 32 extends protections given to nonprofits under a bill I sponsored during the 133rd General Assembly. While that bill provided civil immunity from liability to nonprofit organizations for instances of a defensive shooting on their premises, this new legislation offers tort immunity to those who act in self-defense or the defense of another to protect members and guests of the nonprofit.

The concept for this legislation was brought to my attention by a constituent who wants to close the loophole in current law for his church. My constituent's church has highly trained members who carry concealed as a part of their structured defensive protection plan, as do many other places of worship throughout our state.

This bill **does not** expand concealed carry rights or locations. But it will go a long way to protect the innocent organizations and their members who have no ill intent and are trying to do the right thing in a difficult moment.

Thank you once again, Chairman Manning and the members of the committee, for the opportunity to present this issue to you today. I will be glad to answer any questions at this time.