

March 28, 2007

Dear Chairman and members of the committee, for the record my name is Mike Fellows from Missoula. I'm currently the head of the Montana Libertarian Party.

I rise in support of the right to self defense and HB 340. Americans use guns approximately 2.5 million times to stop crimes - in most cases without firing a shot. In Florida, since, 1987 the murder rate has declined more then 20 percent faster then the national rate when law-abiding citizens have been able to conceal carry.

In an article on the Right to Self-Defense by Wendy McElroy, she notes, on June 27 of 2005 in the case of Castle Rock V Gonzales the Supreme Court found the Jessica Gonzales did not have a constitutional right to police protection even in the presence of a restraining order.

In this country, you can order a pizza, call the police or call an ambulance and see who get there first. HB 340 clarifies the right to self defense. In my campaigns for Congress I have meet people in smaller counties who don't have options at times when it comes to protection from law enforcement so they need to defend themselves, their families, and their property.

I would recommend a do pass on HB 340. Thank you for your time.