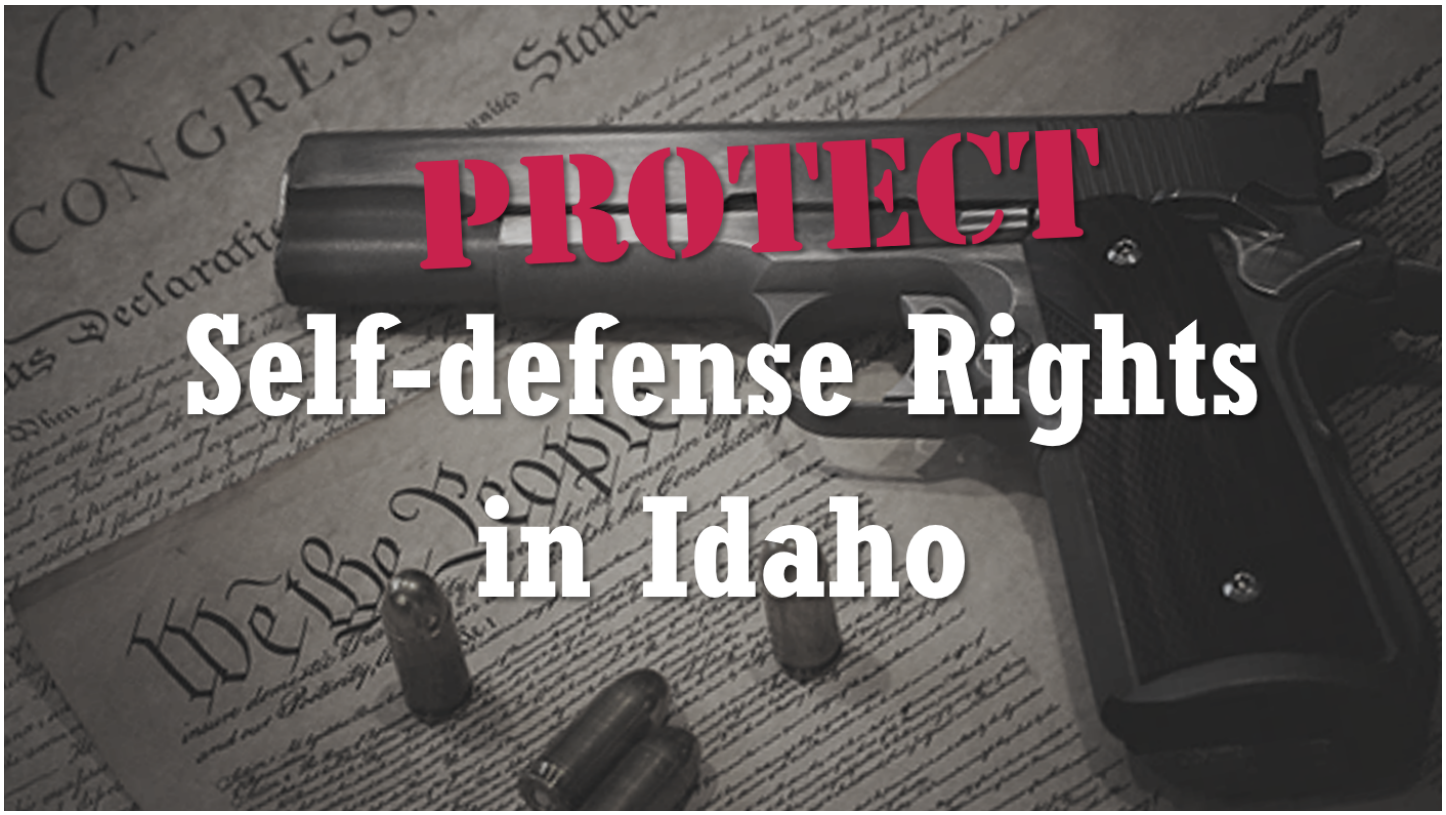
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Support SB 1298: Protect the God-given Right of Self-defense in Idaho

Idaho state Senator Christy Zito (R-Mountain Home) has introduced Senate Bill No. 1298 (SB 1298), the "Stand Your Ground Shield Act." If enacted, it would add a new section to Idaho law granting immunity from criminal prosecution for anyone who uses justified force under existing self-defense statutes. Zito explained the bill's intent in its official Statement of Purpose:

> "Idaho Code §19-202B to provide strong legal protections for individuals who use force in lawful self-defense, defense of others, or defense of certain places. It grants immunity from criminal prosecution when force is justified under existing Idaho statutes and limits law enforcement's ability to arrest without a warrant unless exigent circumstances exist. As the bill states, a person using justified force "shall be immune from any criminal prosecution for the use of such force or threat of force."

This bill addresses a common injustice in lawful self-defense cases — when the legal process "becomes the punishment," with Zito writing:

> "Idaho has strong self-defense statutes. SB1298 does not expand when force may be used. The standards for justified force remain the same as they are in existing Idaho law. The problem is procedural. In many cases, self-defense can only be fully resolved at trial—after arrest, charges, attorney fees, months (or years) of court dates, reputational damage, and lost work. Even if someone is completely vindicated, the cost can be crushing."

This bill would establish a pretrial immunity hearing where a judge must dismiss charges with prejudice if the defendant makes a prima facie showing of justified force. If acquitted or dismissed on self-defense grounds, the

defendant must be reimbursed for all reasonable costs.

SB 1298 would guarantee that the law will protect law-abiding citizens, not be weaponized against them by activist prosecutors or rogue judges. The bill reinforces the presumption of innocence, and saves taxpayer money by avoiding unnecessary legal proceedings against Idahoans who exercise their right to self-defense.

The Declaration of Independence affirms that governments are instituted to secure our God-given, unalienable rights, including life and liberty, and the Second Amendment protects the God-given right to self-defense. Yet without strong legal protections such as those in SB 1298, this fundamental right is infringed.

Urge your state legislators to support SB1298 and support God-given rights in Idaho.