

Rep. Nico Rios
January 17, 2023
House Judiciary Committee
Introduction to HB 1213

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am Representative Nico Rios of District 23 located in NW Williston. I am here to introduce House Bill 1213 and speak in support of passage of this bill.

Way too often have we seen politically motivated prosecutors bring charges against individuals over clear instances of self defense. These prosecutors, who I believe to be anti second amendment and therefore anti self defense, choose to ignore clear evidence of self defense and do not seek to pursue any sort of justice but instead are solely after political gain.

Even if the trial ends up in acquittal the prosecutor gains political notoriety in their political circles for their anti second amendment and anti self defense stance taken in these politically charged cases. The innocent defendant also ends up losing in a variety of ways. These cases can last months and even years. The innocent have to sacrifice so much during these trials. This can often cause the loss of jobs, marriage, businesses, homes and most importantly a good reputation from extreme media scrutiny.

The purpose of House Bill 1213 is to prevent this from ever happening here in North Dakota. If a prosecutor wants to bring charges of murder or attempted murder when there is a possibility of self defense, House Bill 1213 will motivate the prosecutor to make sure he has a very good case.

House Bill 1213 will create and enact a new section to chapter 12.1-5 to North Dakota Century Code, relating to reimbursement for a finding of self defense when charged with a crime of violence.

House Bill 1213 states that if an individual is found not guilty in justification of self defense. Then the state shall reimburse the defendant of all reasonable costs incurred in defense, including loss of wages and time, attorney fees, and other expenses involved in the defense.

I believe House Bill 1213 is a great step in the right direction in protecting North Dakotans rights to self defense.

I ask the members of the House Judiciary committee here to please consider supporting House Bill 1213.

Thank you.