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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency  
Management, Federal and World Affairs

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB947

With a cursory reading of the statutes these changes impact, it is very clear that the terms "militia" and "national guard" are not synonyms. It is also very clear that the word "militia," especially when pertaining to "unorganized militia," was intended to apply to "all able-bodied residents of the state between the ages of 18 and 45 who are not serving in any force of the organized militia or who are not on the state retired list and who are or who have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States..." The entire structure of the law, and the standing legal framework that these concepts occupy, obviates any difference in interpretation of these words. The Militia and The National Guard are different entities.

Clearly, as in mirroring federal law, these statutes were designed to protect the rights of average citizens to defend their lives, liberty, and property from forces that would threaten to do them harm, and to be given legal protection to help in times of crisis. It would be unwise to try to conflate the state National Guard, of which some of us are members, with the state Militia, of which basically all of us are members. It is a right to be able to protect one's home and to be able to protect one's neighbors, especially given that organized government forces are often slow to respond, underfunded, and subject to bureaucratic miasma. (Coming from both left-wing and right-wing generators of small and large quantities.)

Diversity of defense is as important to the rights of citizens as diversity of expression, and should be treated as an equal cohort to the litany of rights the citizens of this state enjoy. Any attempt to blur these terms ignores the sacred and specific role that the average citizen holds within our society: The Militia is the first response of a free people to disaster, invasion, and tyranny. They are the Good Samaritans of our common defense, and should not be conflated with the organized forces that (hopefully) come to fill in the efforts of average people doing good.