

# OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY

SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
VOLUSIA, FLAGLER, PUTNAM & ST. JOHNS COUNTIES



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Representative David Simmons, Chair  
Judiciary Committee  
1301 Capitol  
402 So. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Rep. Simmons:

Please share with the Judiciary Committee my support for HB 129.

In my more than 38 years experience in the Criminal Justice System, 18 as a prosecutor, lawfully armed citizens are rarely the problem in stranger on stranger encounters. To the contrary, armed citizens are able to protect themselves from becoming crime victims.

I personally know of three situations where women have prevented attacks upon themselves because they were lawfully carrying their pistols in their automobiles.

The first involved my daughter, who was assaulted in a supermarket parking lot late at night in Orlando. She was entering her car when accosted by a stranger whom she repelled with her pistol.

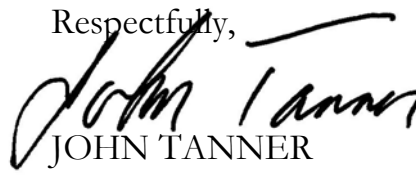
The next situation involved the wife of a close friend who was working as a nurse on the night shift. While returning home from work she stopped at a traffic light and a stranger jumped into her vehicle from the passenger side. She pulled her pistol and he promptly jumped back out.

The third case involves a current staff member of a Florida State Senator. She was returning home on a Friday night on a lonely highway. Two men in a pick-up truck followed her, pulled in front of her and tried to force her off the highway. She pulled out her pistol and displayed it to her assailants through a window; they promptly broke off their attack and fled.

All three of these women would undoubtedly have been raped and robbed, and possibly murdered had they not been carrying their pistols.

This is a public safety issue of the highest priority. Good citizens who are lawfully armed must be allowed to protect themselves. Women, especially going to and returning from work, often during the evening hours, are targets of opportunity for some of the most vicious and violent criminals who prowl our highways and roads, hunting for victims.

I do not know the FPAA position on this Bill, but as the State Attorney of the Seventh Judicial Circuit, I steadfastly support it. Because I am presently preparing for a six victim capital murder trial; I will not be present to personally speak in support of this bill. Please publish this letter and make it part of the record.

Respectfully,  
  
JOHN TANNER  
State Attorney

JT:cf

cc: Rep. J. C. Planas (Vice-Chair), Rep. Kevin Ambler, Rep. Dennis Baxley, Rep. Fred Brummer, Rep. Anitere Flores, Rep. Michael Grant, Rep. Jeff Kottkamp, Rep. Sheri McInvale, Rep. Joe Pickens, Rep. Joe Pickens, Rep. Dennis Ross, Rep. Dan Gelber, Rep. Curtis Richardson, Rep. Jack Seiler