

2/23/2020

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RE: Proponent Testimony for Stand Your Ground HB 381

Criminal Justice Committee  
Hearing Room 121  
Ohio State House  
Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square  
1st Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

To Whom It May Concern;

My name is Karen Reed, and I am submitting my written proponent testimony for 'STAND YOUR GROUND' House Bill 381 as introduced, and as written. This legislation follows the golden standard that our founding fathers stipulated in writing The Supreme Law of The Land, known as our Constitution. Expressing the PROTECTIONS of Our Inalienable Rights from Government Control or Over Reach. In fact, their intention was put in writing, in Our Constitution, specifying our natural (inalienable right) in One's Ability to be able to Defend One's Life and Property with the Specified Second Amendment, stipulating the Right to Bear Arms. Vast number of Supreme Court Cases since, has upheld our Founding Fathers specified intentions of our inalienable right to do so. Keeping with over one hundred years of legal tradition, here in the United States.

One of the very first instances of self-defense and stand your ground theology came from Beard vs. U.S. Case in 1895. The Supreme Court ruled then "UNANIMOUSLY" that an innocent person, under attack is NOT obliged to retreat. These individuals in "FACT" had a right to STAND THEIR GROUND, meet ANY attack upon them with a deadly weapon, and do so in such a manner and with such force that they honestly believed it would SAVE their LIFE or PROTECT against bodily INJURY. Just like so many Supreme Court Cases have already ruled, this particular case REINFORCES exactly what our founding fathers were RESOLUTE in establishing our natural rights under are Constitution. Our founding fathers spelled it plainly and clearly, as written in the language of common use, in their era of time. Making the case of We the People Are Entitled To: "LIFE – LIBERTY – The Pursuit of Happiness" starting off in the Declaration of Independence. Having our life, is having the LIBERTY to PROTECT one's life, family and property. Fully establishing that our "NATURAL RIGHTS" are NOT Subject to Government Control of Legislation.

I also want to point out, the common sense, of criminals, always following evil, criminal intent, and to try to "Legislate" away ones Sovereign Right To Defend One's Life, is actually "Legalizing" ones life to be

destroyed or suffer dire harm, from NOT being able to DEFEND One's Life, as are founders intended . Even according to the statistical data which reflects, those who are victims of domestic violence and stalking, seem to be the ones at the greatest disadvantage for the ability to retreat. Not only from a psychological disadvantage, but this type of "RESTRICTION", actually empowers their aggressor to violence. Which brings me to the concern for myself, my daughter and my granddaughter, that God forbid, if placed in that criminal element, that we should be able to DEFEND our Lives, without having to psycho-analyze, or a photo-graphic memory of what is nothing less than attempting to "second guess" of "what to do", or "how far should we retreat", when in all honesty, the only thing that we should be worried about is protecting own lives, and NOT the Perpetrator. Considering being in that situation, a split-second delay could in fact cost us our lives.

Which brings me to the point, that any "RESTRICTION" put in place against "SELF-DEFENSE" is not only Unconstitutional, but is completely "VOID" of LAW, because it would be legislated by the GOVERNMENT, and NOT by our Creator, which in FACT would NOT be LAW, because OUR UNALIENABLE RIGHT TO PROTECT and DEFEND OUR LIVES, and OUR FAMILIES LIVES, and OUR PROPERTY, is NOT Given by The Government, and There for, CAN NOT BE CONTROLLED by The Government, or The Governments Legislative Body. The Constitution summed up our NATURAL RIGHTS, as legally termed "INALIENABLE" ... Which means that NO GOVERNING BODY has given those rights, NOR can any GOVERNING BODY Take Away or INFRINGE ON Those INALIENABLE RIGHTS. Actually, our founders inserted those Bill of Rights as a "PROTECTION ORDER" Against the Government to even attempt to infringe or any of them. In my opinion any legislation that would NOT FOLLOW THE CONSTITUTION WOULD BE "NEGLENT" from any legislative body to even consider passage of such heinous legislation, that could cost lives, and harm others. This type of legislation would only result in the deaths or harm to someone's mother, wife, daughter, granddaughter.

God forbid that I myself, would ever be put in that situation, that would require me to use deadly force to protect myself, or loved ones, or others, in a split second, and then end up being charged with a criminal offense for doing so. Which would also create and add more hardships to both financial and psychological aspects. Equating the end result, which would be that the victim becomes the criminal, and that is not only negligent, but in fact, is against every premise under our Constitution.

That brings me to recent history, when former President Obama was an Illinois Senator, who voted to "REMOVE THE RETREAT REQUIREMENT" in Illinois State Law, because he even knew that the right to defend one's life or family or others, was in fact, one's essential liberty. Evidently even he knew that one cannot have LIBERTY without MORALITY. Then again, maybe it was in response to the Supreme Court Ruling in 2005, in regards to the City of Castle Rock vs. Gonzales, that ruled in that case that: "Law Enforcement Does NOT have to Protect Its Citizens Lives, and in fact, gave LAW ENFORCEMENT Full Immunity to NOT PROTECT The Lives Of Its Citizens". Evidently the Supreme Court in making that decision, made it, with our founding fathers' intent- which knowing that everyone has their own Natural Right to Be Able to DEFEND One's LIFE, LIBERTY and PROPERTY.... NOT THE GOVERNMENT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

In closing, this 'STAND YOUR GROUND BILL' needs to be PASSED as SUBMITTED. Please let my record also reflect, that It is a SHAME, that we, even have to be here today, to address ones INALIENABLE RIGHT to DEFEND THEMSELVES! Especially knowing that The Supreme Court of The United States has

already ruled in various cases of record, that in fact our "INALIENABLE RIGHTS" Can NOT Be INFRINGED UPON or TAKEN AWAY! In fact, all of this "UNCONSTITUTIONAL" Legislation that has been rolling into this HOUSE BODY, Needs TO CEASE in its ENTIRETY.

Sincerely,

Karen Reed

Being A part of "WE THE PEOPLE"