

2/22/2020

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Criminal Justice Committee
RE: Proponent Testimony for Stand Your Ground HB 381
Hearing Room 121
Ohio State House
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

To Whom It May Concern;

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Tom Reed, and I am here today to give my proponent testimony for 'STAND YOUR GROUND' House Bill 381 as introduced, and as written. This legislation follows more than 100 years of legal tradition here in the United States, following precisely as our founding fathers intended.

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 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. This 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

Given by the GOVERNMENT, but by our Creator, in order to PROTECT and DEFEND OUR LIFE, and OUR FAMILIES LIVES, and OUR PROPERTY. 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 research for giving my Proponent Testimony here today, I also found that even in my research, that 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 actually empowers their aggressor to violence. Which brings me to the concern for my wife, my daughter and my granddaughter, that God forbid, if place in that element, that they should be able to defend their lives, without them having to secure a "second guess" of "what to do", or "how far should they retreat" when in all honesty, the only thing that they should be worried about is protecting their own life, NOT the Perpetrator. Considering being in that situation, a split-second delay could in fact cost them their lives. Which brings me to the point, that any "RESTRICTION" put in place against "SELF-DEFENSE" is not only Unconstitutional, but in my opinion "NEGLEGENT" from any legislative body that would create legislation that would result in the death 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, that would result in both financial and psychological hardships. Which the result 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 can not 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 It's Citizens Lives, and in fact, gave LAW ENFORCEMENT Full Immunity to NOT PROTECT The Lives Of It's 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.

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,

Thomas Reed

Being Apart of "WE THE PEOPLE"