

Testimony on House Bill 381  
House Criminal Justice Committee

Submitted by:  
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Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to HB 381. I am speaking/writing to you today as a private citizen, parent and neighbor. I oppose this bill because:

1. These types of Stand Your Ground laws have been proven to actually increase homicide rates and show no decrease in violent crime. The most recent study was from the RAND Corporation published in 2018 showed this same result.
2. Stand Your Ground laws have a disproportionate impact on communities of color. - When white shooters kill black victims, the resulting homicides are deemed justifiable 11 times more frequently than when the shooter is black and the victim is white - this is from a study analyzing FBI data.
3. This type of logic used in Stand Your Ground laws was literally a punch line on the show South Park, where 2 characters would yell, "They're coming right at us!" and proceed to shoot at anything in the vicinity - including squirrels. This was from over 20 years ago, and yet this logic pervades, but not as a joke. Perceptions of fear can be strongly affected by the biases of the shooter, and easily manipulated - leading to the disproportionate impact on people of color.
4. I have met Congresswoman Lucy McBath, and looked into the eyes of a mother whose son was shot and killed by a racist white man in Jacksonville, Florida, in 2012. Stand Your Ground was invoked by the murderer and it took 2 trials to convict him. Over loud music, he felt so fearful he shot up a car of teenagers. We already lose 100 Americans to gun violence every day, this bill will only add to that total.

Thank you for your time and attention. Please do not pass this dangerous bill.