

Chairman/woman, Vice Chair, Ranking Member and members of the committee.

My name is Candace Barnes and I am reaching out to testify against STAND YOUR GROUND House Bill 381. I am a citizen of Ohio, a mother, a wife, a Technology consultant and a Christian and I know that this bill is not good for our community.

The use of excessive force when a person feels threatened is so vague and does not have good guidelines or guardrails and is extremely subjective. People can feel a perceived threat or even say that they felt threatened, whether they felt that way or not and they will have the right, under the law, to use deadly force on their fellow human.

This is a bad idea and we have seen this go bad in situations like Trayvon Martin and Ahmaud Arbery. Once a life is taken, even if there is a change of heart of the shooter, you can't bring a person back to life. People should feel confident enough to justify their choice to use deadly force, not feel wrapped in the law to do whatever they want because they feel threatened and not have any consequences.

Please vote NO for this bill. Given that we know that implicit bias exists to a large degree, this bill could be a gateway to destruction in the community.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this important life-saving bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thanks,
Candace