

My name is Gary Cox. My representative is David Leland, I have been a resident of Columbus since at least 1978, and I wish to present my written testimony in opposition to HB 381, the Stand Your Ground bill.

As a former prosecutor who served the state of Ohio for 14 years, I am appalled that this bill is even being considered. Stand Your Ground laws undermine lawful authority and merely serve as a license to kill fellow citizens. The logical conclusion of Stand Your Ground is that the killer no longer has any eye witnesses to dispute the killer's account. The old "oops I thought he had a gun" defense works too well and it should not be adopted into law here in Ohio.

As an Ohioan, I am shocked that a bill like this which legalizes killing is being rushed through the General Assembly during a time when legislation dealing with racism and police brutality should be the focus of attention. A Stand Your Ground bill will do nothing to honor the murders of George Floyd, Trayvon Martin, Ahmaud Arbery, etc. Leave the murders to the cops. Don't extend the license to kill to citizens.

As an American, I am outraged that the Republican Party and its gutless minions in Ohio continue to erode our democracy by extending the hand of big government further and further into our private affairs, even when those private affairs spill over into the public. The solution to public discourse and disagreement is more discourse, not violence and state-sponsored killing.

Get a conscience, get on the right side of history, and withdraw this ridiculous bill.

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