

Dear Criminal Justice Committee Members,

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB381 as proposed. We know “stand your ground” laws have contributed to unnecessary deaths, as in the case of Travon Martin who was killed by George Zimmerman. Ohio is currently in the midst of making improvements and social change around racial biases in policing and sentencing. While protesters are marching in the streets against race-motivated violence, now is the time reconsider our approach and prevent the types of killings such as Travon Martin’s murder. The passage of HB381 would go against what #blacklivesmatter is fighting for.

Additionally, the American Bar Association has said: ABA House of Delegates urges repeal of existing “stand your ground” laws:

The House of Delegates adopted Resolution 112, urging legislative bodies and governmental agencies to significantly modify or refrain from enacting laws that eliminate the duty to retreat before using force in self-defense in public places. (Source: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/diversity/racial_ethnic_justice/projects/SYG/).

Based on the need for police reform, sensible gun control to confront school shootings and mass shootings, and the socio-political climate demanding equity, please do not support HB381.

Thank you for your consideration,

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