

Testimony on House Bill 381

Submitted by: Jennifer Madaffer

I am writing this testimony as a private, and very concerned, citizen. The proposed Stand Your Ground bill would put Ohio children, families, and communities at risk. This bill would allow a person to shoot to kill in public *even when there is a clear and safe alternative*. Why would we encourage such violence in our communities? Why would we give private citizens more leeway to shoot than the US military gives to our highly-trained soldiers in a war zone? Its already been clearly demonstrated that states where Stand Your Ground laws have been enacted see an increase in homicide rates. For example, the implementation of Florida's Stand Your Ground law was associated with a 32 percent increase in firearm homicides, and a 24 percent increase in overall homicides. In 79 percent of Florida's cases, the person who claimed Stand Your Ground could have retreated to avoid the confrontation. In 68 percent of cases, the person killed was unarmed. We cannot allow this to happen to our Ohio communities! There is no proof that Stand Your Ground laws deter crime, so what is the point? Please put the safety of your constituents first and reject House Bill 381.