

Members of the Criminal Justice Committee,

My name is Jennifer (Jenny) Morrison. I am an Ohio State student who has lived in the Columbus area my entire life. I am writing to tell you that I am strongly opposed to HB 381.

This bill has built-in racial bias. I know that "Stand Your Ground" laws were used in the defense of Trayvon Martin and Ahmaud Arbery's killers, making it difficult to prosecute them. Black Americans are being unjustly killed under this bill because they are more likely to be perceived as "threats" than their White counterparts. Violence must be avoided whenever possible. I believe that the recent protests against George Floyd's death and police brutality have illustrated how much the nation is hurting from its history of racialized violence. I hope that, when considering this bill, you also consider the fact that it can (and will) be used to justify the murders of innocent Black American citizens.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.