

Ohio Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Katie Coakley
574 Delaware Ave
Akron, OH 44303

June, 2020

Dear Chairman Lang, Vice Chairman Plummer, Ranking Members, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Katie Coakley I am mother of 3 children and live in Akron Ohio. In my career I help women who have had cancer as a mastectomy fitter. Helping people is my calling and passion- much like you in your career as public service. I am VEHEMENTLY opposed to HB 381.

Stand your Ground Bills are exceedingly dangerous and will further divide race relations in our state. This bill will make our homes and neighborhoods less safe. As a majority Republican legislature your parties platform is pro-life, however policies like HB 381 are the antithesis of pro-life. You are writing into law that property is more important than people. The American Bar Association has stated that in the 10 years of the Stand your Ground Bills, the law has increased homicide, has no deterrent on serious crime and results in racial disparities in the criminal justice system and impedes law enforcement. You are creating a law that states that gun rights are more valuable than the lives of our neighbors. I beg you to "Be Best" and use the legislature to protect communities by funding better mental health, wage inequities and children in foster care.

As the legislature of our state you are uniquely tasked with the role of serving all your constituents and making sure our state as a whole is safe for EVERYONE. Bills such as HB 381 will decrease public safety. The Rand Institute states that Stand Your Ground Bills increase violent crime, and found no qualifying studies that decreased mass shootings, suicide or defensive gun use.

I ask you to take a moment of personal reflection as to your reasoning for pursuing such a profoundly dangerous law. I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this dangerous bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Katie Coakley

