

June 1, 2020

The Honorable George Lang
Chairperson, Criminal Justice Committee
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Opposition to HB381

Dear Chairman Lang and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kristine Woodworth. I am a retired businessperson in the field of marketing research, data analysis and personal history, and a resident of House District 27 in Cincinnati. My testimony is in opposition to HB381.

As the elected representatives of Ohio residents, your job is to solve problems being experienced by Ohioans. As events of the first half of 2020 illustrate, there is no shortage of problems plaguing our communities and our state. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread, along with the resulting economic damage. An election looms in just five months, and you will need to be sure that all Ohio voters can easily and safely exercise their right to vote. Events right outside the Statehouse doors in the past week illustrate the anger that a large proportion of Ohioans feel at the inequities and racial injustices that still plague our nation. And as the Criminal Justice Committee, surely there are actual problems with the criminal justice system in Ohio that this committee could address.

And yet this committee has chosen to spend this time hearing testimony on a bill that can most generously be described as a solution in search of a problem.

I'm not going to share details from the research that links **handling a gun to increased levels of testosterone and aggression** in males.¹ I'm not going to cite the data and statistics that show how Stand Your Ground laws increase homicides, encourage vigilantism, and value property over human life. There is plenty of research that shows the negative effects of these laws, and their disproportionate effect on communities of color. Others will share that information with you and I hope you will pay attention to that.

My testimony amounts to one simple question: **what problem is this bill intended to solve?** Where are the cases of wrongfully prosecuted and incarcerated good guys (or gals) with guns? Where are the public opinion polls of Ohio citizens showing their deep concern over being forced to deescalate or retreat from confrontations rather than being able to open fire in the streets? Where is the evidence that this bill is anything other than pandering to extremists?

I simply ask you, what problem plaguing Ohioans will this bill solve? I submit to you that the problem does not exist, and that holding hearings on this bill during this time is nothing more than political pandering to a tiny group of extremists. Ohio neither wants nor needs this dangerous bill.

Please vote NO on HB381.

¹ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/6919042_Guns_Testosterone_and_Aggression_An_Experimental_Test_of_a_Mediational_Hypothesis