

Dear members of this committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Laura Herzog, a graduate student at Ohio University. I am strongly opposed to HB 381- "stand your ground".

This bill is dangerous and does not reduce violent crime or homicides. According to a comprehensive assessment conducted in 2018 by RAND, a research organization that according to their website "develops solutions to public policy challenges to help make communities throughout the world safer and more secure, healthier and more prosperous", there is moderate evidence - the second strongest level of evidence - that laws like this one are associated with an increase in homicides. In a 2019 article published by RAND, 4 other studies were done that similarly concluded that the "stand your ground" law does not prevent violent crime.

Not only is it shown to not reduce violent crime but there is racial bias when this law is put in practice. In a 2015 study published in Social Science and Medicine, Volume 142, Ackermann et al looked at 204 cases where this law was cited. They found that the race of the victim is a significant predictor of the outcome. "After controlling for other variables, the defendant is two times more likely to be convicted in a case that involves white victims compared to those involving non-white victims".

So I implore you, as citizen of Ohio, to not pass such a dangerous, and racially biased bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.