

## **Testimony on HB 381- Opposition**

House Criminal Justice Committee

Rep. George F. Lang, Chair

Vice Chair Phil Plummer

Submitted by:

Leah Bunck

Chair Lang, Vice Chair Plummer and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in opposition to HB 381. I am writing to you today as a mother of two, spouse of a teacher who was involved in a school shooting, voter, and social worker. I oppose this bill because it is a danger to all Ohioans.

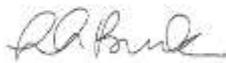
As an essential worker providing meals for seniors through Meals-on-Wheels in Central Ohio, I am unable to attend the hearing in person. I believe it is imperative for my voice to be heard in opposition of this dangerous bill.

From my research, laws resembling this one implemented in other states have seen an increase in firearm injuries which result in more emergency room visits and hospitalizations. In a time of COVID is it irresponsible to promote laws that add avoidable visits to our medical system. To knowingly promote legislation that can overwhelm our healthcare system is disrespectful to our hardworking medical staff and a danger to gun violence victims and their families.

Additional research shows each month at least 30 people nationwide lose their life as a result of legislation like this bill. For a state legislature that continues to promote the value of life, it is shocking to me that your members would pass legislation that has proven time and time again to result in a loss of life.

It is also tone deaf that you are passing legislation that disproportionately is proven to impact African Americans. It is a sign that representatives supporting this bill do not truly value the life of every Ohioan, and value our African American citizens even less.

Respectfully,



Leah Bunck, MSW

Sources: <https://everytownresearch.org/fact-sheet-stand-your-ground/>