

Testimony on H.B. 381
House Criminal Justice Committee
Rep. George F. Lang, Chair
Vice Chair Phil Plummer

Submitted by Sieglinde Martin on June 2, 2020

Chair George F. Lang, Vice Chair Phil Plummer, Ranking Member David Leland and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony against H.B. 381.

My name is Sieglinde Martin. I am testifying as a constituent, mother, grandmother, a retired pediatric physical therapist and resident of central Ohio for over 50 years.

I am sorry that due to the Covid-19 epidemic, I am unable to attend todays hearing as I belong to the most endangered population group. I have asked my friend Andrea Yagoda to read my testimony instead.

I attended previous hearings on H. B. 381 and are familiar with Stand Your Ground laws. Listening to the presented testimonies, as well as reading and studying several analyses by lawyers and scholars support the following conclusions:

1. H. B. 381 is a most extreme Stand Your Ground bill. It is more extreme than any such bill in another state.

2. H. B. 381 appears to be designed to protect most of all the person who fires a gun as a means of self-protection.

It does protect an unarmed person from harm; it does not protect our children from harm.

It does not protect a jogger, biker, roller bladder, swimmer, shopper or any person having a good time in a restaurant from harm.

The only one this bill protects is the person with a gun in his pocket or his hand – ready to shoot.

This bill does not even benefit gun owners. It is a narrowly targeted bill benefitting gun carriers.

3. Who wrote this bill? Records show that H.B. 381 is heavily promoted by Ohio Gun Owners, especially by its president Chris Dorr. Is Chris Dorr from Ohio? He seems to live here right now, but where does his family live?

You are the legislators of Ohio. You represent the people in your Ohio district. You live in your district and many of you are born there as well. I am sure you want to give thorough scrutiny to any legislation excessively pushed by an outsider and a small minority of gun owners, while the majority of Ohioan's, who have to live with this bill, oppose it or do not know, if they want it.

4. Supporters of H.B. 381 portray people who want to use their guns in self-defense as law-abiding citizens. Unfortunately, this is open to discussion. Detailed scrutiny of the person who fired in self-defense,

showed at times a prior criminal record. Could it be possible that H. B. 381 gives such a person the license to kill with impunity?

5. Some of the gun carriers are frightened elderly men or women. They feel vulnerable and want to fire their guns to protect themselves when assaulted by a stranger. I listened to their testimonies. Their reasonably sounding fear appears to be not supported by reality. When asked if they ever had experienced such a frightful scenario, as they are imagining, they could not name a single one.

A medical professional will affirm that as we get older, we may become more easily frightened. It is part of the human condition. Will H. B. 381 make our elderly more secure? Or will support and love from the people close to them, assure and comfort them, as they approach the years at the end of their lives?

After considering the above arguments, I plead with you not to support H.B. 381.

You are entrusted with the power to enact legislation for us, the people of Ohio.

No person testifying today has that power.

Ohio Gun Owners can't pass this bill.

The Gun lobby with all it's money can't pass it.

Even our Governor or our President cannot pass it.

Only you have the power to pass or not pass this bill.

Please, use your power wisely!

Thank you