

Chairman George Lang, Vice Chair Phil Plummer, Ranking Member David Leland, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Matthew Retchin. I am a college student who attends Columbia University, currently residing in Columbus, Ohio. I am strongly opposed to HB 381.

My understanding of the laws of Ohio is that the use of lethal weaponry in scenarios for self-defense should only be allowed in circumstances in which a person is in immediate danger of death from an assailant. In other words, the state already has good self-defense laws. I'm alarmed that this bill expands the scenarios in which a person can use lethal weaponry, even when alternative courses of action are available. In addition, current events have shown that laws such as HB 381 lead to senseless, unnecessary violence:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2020-05-21/ahmaud-arbery-and-the-lethal-outcomes-of-stand-your-ground-laws>.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote **NO** on this dangerous bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Best,  
Matthew Retchin