

Dear Representative:

My name is Rachel Flocken, and I live in the Victorian Village/Harrison West neighborhood of Columbus, Ohio. I am writing today to express my strong opposition to HB 381, the enact modifications to law regarding self-defense. This law is virtually the equivalent of other states' Stand Your Ground Law, which has disproportionately harmed marginalized populations. As two examples, this is the type of law that acquitted the man that chased down and murdered Trayvon Martin when told not to by police dispatchers, and how Ahmaud Arbery's murders went months before being charged for his respective murder.

In my opinion, people's lives and the law should never be affected by partisan politics, and lawmakers should be level-headed and diplomatic. Case in point, I would like to bring to the attention of the subcommittee the words of Candice Keller on her Twitter social media account, one of the primary sponsors of this bill, who has a clear hatred and bias against the populations that make up her own constituents:

After every mass shooting, the liberals start the blame game. Why not place the blame where it belongs?

The breakdown of the traditional American family (thank you, transgender, homosexual marriage, and drag queen advocates); fatherlessness, a subject no one discusses or believes is relevant; the ignoring of violent video games; the relaxing of laws against criminals (open borders); the acceptance of recreational marijuana; failed school policies (hello, parents who defend misbehaving students); disrespect to law enforcement (thank you, Obama); hatred of our veterans (thank you, professional athletes who hate our flag and National Anthem); the Dem Congress, many members whom are openly anti-Semitic; the culture, which totally ignores the importance of God and the church (until they elect a President); state office holders, who have no interest in learning about our Constitution and the Second Amendment; and snowflakes, who can't accept a duly-elected President.

Did I forget anybody? The list is long. And the fury will continue.

That list is indeed long, and aptly illustrates a lack of self-awareness and the privilege that leads to disconnect from at least 14 groups of people, depending on how you break it down. This is not diplomatic, not level-headed, and should not be the source of laws of the land in which we *all* live. This is indicative of a bias against people that have a worldview based in lived experience outside of Representative Keller's understanding - a bias which is embodied by the type of law she is attempting to implement here in the State of Ohio. And I will venture that the majority of Ohioans would not stand for this type of hatred being codified by lawmakers like Ms. Keller.

As a white woman who works at a University, I have worked very hard to separate myself from my whiteness in order to examine the systems in place that are built to

serve me and rarely others. I ask that you, our lawmakers of Ohio, regardless of your background do the same, and reject House Bill 381 and the inherent bias that would only further bolster these flawed systems.

Thank you for your time and service to the State of Ohio, and God bless.

Best regards,

Rachel Flocken

614-370-6165

linworth03@gmail.com

1238 Harrison Ave, Columbus OH 43201