

It has been 309 days since the mass shooting in the Oregon District in Dayton Ohio. I speak up for justice for the victims, the City of Dayton, and on behalf of numerous citizens who believe that consideration of any Stand Your Ground or self defense legislation should be cancelled or postponed, until the Ohio legislature has addressed the more urgent topic of weapons in the hands of mentally ill persons, domestic violence offenders, and stricter regulation for ownership of military or assault style weapons, as well as common sense measures that require safe storage of firearms in the home.

Numerous cases across the country point to the failure of Stand Your Ground measures to protect citizens, in fact; they cause more injuries, violence and death. The Maubry case is timely and clearly on point, as to how these laws cause more injuries, violence and death.

In addition, our nation faces a crisis with the militarization of our police forces. These officers are trained, educated and experienced, yet the death toll mounts at the hands of trained law enforcement officers. By relaxing any standards permitting citizens to use a firearm as they see fit, Ohio will face more injuries, violence and death. My perception of a threat versus your perception of a threat can never be legislated, it is too subjective. Please err on the side of prevention and public safety.

Stand your Ground is a non starter, and will do nothing to promote public safety or prevent senseless gun violence. I wait for the list of dates, cases and outcomes showing Ohio citizens first, needed to use a firearm for self protection, and second, whether the outcome deterred an attacker or crime, and what the outcome was. Data driven decisions are an important tool taking politics and emotion out of the equation during the exceptionally difficult task of protecting Ohio citizens and promoting public safety.

Please serve and protect all of your constituents, please use your power to promote laws that do the greatest good for the greatest number of citizens. Stand Your Ground is an extreme position, as out of the mainstream as possible. Call the Mayor of Dayton, talk to the victims of the Oregon shootings if you have the courage, they will be happy to tell you what they think about any Stand Your Ground legislation. It pours salt into their wounds, and does nothing to lift us up, together.