

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: June , 2020

NAME: Sondra Fischer

ORGANIZATION: The American School of Kinshasa

ADDRESS: 52 Route de Matadi

CITY: Kinshasa

COUNTRY: Democratic Republic of Congo

STATE: n/a

ZIP: n/a

TELEPHONE: 2430822517324

ARE YOU REPRESENTING: **YOURSELF**

DO YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ON LEGISLATION (BILL NUMBER): HB 381

SPECIFIC ISSUE: Stand Your Ground

DO YOU FAVOR THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION REGARDING THIS ISSUE?

No

PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE GROUNDS ON WHICH YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE SUCH ENACTMENT:

Chairman Lang and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee,

Thank you for reading my testimony today. My name is Sondra Fischer. I am born and raised in Ohio but currently living in the Democratic Republic of Congo. I am strongly opposed to HB 381.

I could give you a lot of statistics to support the notion that 'Stand Your Ground' is a law with a racial bias but I'm sure that an intelligent person such as yourself already knows that fact. Even people who say it's not.....they really know in their heart that it overwhelming provides excuses for scared people to justify their deadly force. Instead I would like to remember Tamir Rice who was killed in Cleveland when a police officer showed up and within seconds was shot dead by an officer who claimed he 'feared for his life'. The police officer was not charged, but was later

fired for lying on his application to the police department. In what world would a grown man with a gun be afraid for his life? How could he perceive a 12 year old child as a threat? The ability to blatantly say 'I feared for my life' is not a valid excuse for deadly force by anyone. I'm from a town that had KKK painted on the water tower until 2001. There's a lot of people there who are afraid of a lot of people based on their race or ethnicity. Their small-minded perceptions of the world shouldn't be able to justify their actions.

Theodore Wafer also tried to use the 'stand your ground' defense to explain his killing of a 19 year old woman outside the door of his home who was just simply seeking assistance after an accident. If people are always able to use 'Stand Your Ground' to explain their actions then systemic changes that need to happen won't ever be put in the public eye.

I know my dad would 'fear for his life' if a black person were knocking on his door. That's because he's a racist person with racist beliefs. He's also got a house full of guns. Should he have the right to shoot someone and say he 'feared for his life'? His fear is based on racial bias the same as this law.

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

WILL YOU HAVE A WRITTEN STATEMENT, VISUAL AIDS, OR OTHER MATERIAL TO DISTRIBUTE? **NO** (IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES TO THE CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY)

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOUR TESTIMONY REQUIRE? Written