

TO: Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee
FROM: Gary Daniels, Chief Lobbyist, ACLU of Ohio
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RE: House Bill 228



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To Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee, thank you for this opportunity to present opponent testimony on Amended Substitute House Bill 228.

The ACLU of Ohio opposes House Bill 228 because of the likely effect expanding Ohio's "Stand Your Ground" law, as found in this legislation, will have on people of color throughout the state.

Indeed, we already know, across the country, people of color are more likely to be stopped, searched, ticketed, arrested, convicted, imprisoned, imprisoned for longer sentences, sentenced to death, and actually executed than their white counterparts.

When looking at national crime data, we also know of the gigantic racial disparities when it comes to justifiable homicides. That is, when the shooter is white and the victim black, the chances that homicide will be found justified is significantly greater than when both the shooter and victim are white (and when the shooter is black and the victim white or black).

This applies in states that do not have your Stand Your Ground laws and those that do. In fact, this difference is further exacerbated in states *with* Stand Your Ground laws. To give you an idea of the magnitude, a 2013 study by the Urban Institute that examined FBI crime data concluded, in states with Stand Your Ground laws, a white shooter is 350% more likely to have their homicide ruled justified when the victim is black versus when the victim is white.

If the Ohio legislature is intent upon expanding Ohio's law via HB 228, at the very least, this bill should be amended to include reporting and data collection requirements so your constituents can closely follow the effects of this expansion. Obviously, statistics on the races of the accused and the victims would be included, among other useful data. Only with reliable data can Ohio examine and determine any further needed fixes or changes should HB 228 become law.

Better yet, the ACLU of Ohio urges rejection of House Bill 180's Stand Your Ground expansion as unnecessary, unworkable, and further facilitation of race-based injustice and inequality.