

## TESTIMONY ON HB 228

To Chairman Coley, Vice-Chairman Uecker, and Ranking Member Schiavoni, my name is Ethan Nichols and I am writing to you on behalf of Ohio Students for Gun Legislation, the group of which I serve as President and Chief Strategist.

I am a 16 year-old high schooler who lives in Cincinnati, Ohio. I am the President and Chief Strategist of Ohio Students for Gun Legislation, and a member of the Christ Church Cathedral Gun Violence Working Group.

One of the provisions of HB 228 would make Ohio a Stand your Ground state. Stand Your Ground allows someone to use lethal force if they perceive a threat, but the definition of a threat is unclear. It allows for an increased amount of discrepancies between when a shooting is said to be “justifiable”, compared to when they are declared non “justifiable”.

It causes even more concern in communities of color. Take Florida for instance, the average number of shootings deemed “justifiable” jumped from 12% of the time to an astonishing 36% of the time within a year of Florida implementing Stand Your Ground.

We need strong representatives that will fight for our lives. You can do that by voting NO on this dangerous bill. You now have the option to vote for our lives, you can provide us that protection by voting NO on HB 228.

Thank you,

Ethan Nichols

President and Chief Strategist

Ohio Students for Gun Legislation