

Testimony on House Bill 796
Civil Justice Committee

Submitted by:
Danessa Smith

Chair Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to House Bill 796.

My name is Danessa Smith, I am a resident of Ohio and a legal gun owner and I strongly oppose hb 381. HB 381 would allow a person to shoot to kill in public, even when there is a clear and safe alternative. Stand Your Ground laws encourage escalated violence in situations that could be defused in other ways. Human lives should be valued more than that. All avenues to de-escalate need to be taken, and we need to focus our energy on that process. This bill will only increase gun violence and homicide and does not decrease violent crime, as has been proven by studies on gun policies. As a legal gun owner who has spent hours training, I understand the duty to retreat is first and foremost both in my safety, and the safety of the public because gun violence rarely is isolated and innocent citizens can be endangered due to careless deadly actions. Do not bring this bill to vote, it is both dangerous and immoral.

Danessa Smith