

Testimony on House Bill 796
Civil Justice Committee

Submitted by:
Kristine Woodworth

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 Kristine Woodworth. I am a retired businessperson in the field of marketing research, data analysis and personal history, and a resident of House District 27 in Cincinnati.

As the elected representatives of Ohio residents, your job is to solve problems being experienced by Ohioans. As events of 2020 illustrate, there is no shortage of problems plaguing our communities and our state. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread, along with the resulting economic damage. Events right outside the Statehouse doors in the past summer illustrate the anger that a large proportion of Ohioans feel at the inequities and racial injustices that still plague our nation. Corruption plagues this body, and decades after being ruled unconstitutional, our school funding system remains unaddressed.

And yet this committee has chosen to spend this time during a limited lame duck session hearing testimony on a bill that can most generously be described as a solution in search of a problem.

I'm not going to share details from the research that links handling a gun to increased levels of testosterone and aggression in males.¹ I'm not going to cite the data and statistics that show how Stand Your Ground laws increase homicides, encourage vigilantism, and value property over human life. There is plenty of research that shows the negative effects of these laws, and their disproportionate effect on communities of color. Others will share that information with you and I hope you will pay attention to that.

My testimony amounts to one simple question: what problem is this bill intended to solve? Where are the cases of wrongfully prosecuted and incarcerated good guys (or gals) with guns? Where are the public opinion polls of Ohio citizens showing their deep

concern over being forced to deescalate or retreat from confrontations rather than being able to open fire in the streets? Where is the evidence that this bill is anything other than pandering to extremists?

I simply ask you, what problem plaguing Ohioans will this bill solve? I submit to you that the problem does not exist, and that holding hearings on this bill during this time is nothing more than political pandering to a tiny group of extremists. Ohio neither wants nor needs this dangerous bill.

Please vote NO on HB796.

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https://www.researchgate.net/publication/6919042_Guns_Testosterone_and_Aggression_An_Experimental_Test_of_a_Mediational_Hypothesis

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