

## **Testimony of House Bill 796**

House Civil Justice Committee

Submitted By:

Dion Green

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 HB796. My name is my name is Dion Green. I am citizen of Ohio and resident of Montgomery County. I am here to oppose this Stand Your Ground bill because last year I had to suffer losing my father in my arms in the middle of the street due to the mass shooting in the Oregon District, which killed my father and claimed the life of 8 other innocent victims. Since that tragedy, the citizens of Ohio have been calling on you to Do Something to reduce gun violence. But this bill would only lead to more gun violence, and it would put me, as a black man, at risk of being a victim to gun violence yet again.

By eliminating the duty to retreat when it is safe and reasonable to do so, this bill would allow people to justify killing someone by claiming that they are “standing their ground.” Furthermore, in the black and brown community we would see an increase in deaths relating to gun violence. I pray that we can come up with a better solution, instead of granting a person the right to take someone else’s life because they feel uncomfortable and react out of fear instead of thinking of an alternative and retreating from a confrontation if it is safe to do so.

I urge you to vote no on HB 796. Think about the lives we are going to save by not passing this bill. Thank you for your time and for listening to my testimony, and God Bless.

Respectfully submitted,

Dion Green