

Testimony on House Bill 796
Civil Justice Committee

Submitted by:
Sarah Krieg

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 Sarah Krieg, and I am an Ohio resident and a voter. I would like to express my strong opposition to HB 796. This bill expands the type of locations at which a person has no "duty to retreat." Stand Your Ground bills of this type are dangerous and unnecessary. They give permission for people to shoot to kill in public, even if there are other alternatives available. There is no evidence that Stand Your Ground laws deter crime or reduce gun violence ; rather, they increase gun violence in the states in which they exist. Moreover, Stand Your Ground laws disproportionately harm communities and people of color. In this moment, in this frightening and uncertain time, it would be reckless to endanger more Ohioans with the passage of a bill like HB 796. Racial and political tensions remain high, and homicides in Columbus are at an all-time high. It would be foolhardy to give further license to kill at this time or any time. Please do not support HB 796. Thank you for your time.

Sarah Krieg