

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: December 8, 2020

NAME: Kathryn Knue Przywara

ORGANIZATION: _____ (IF APPLICABLE)

POSITION/TITLE: _____

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ARE YOU REPRESENTING: YOURSELF ORGANIZATION _____

DO YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ON
LEGISLATION (BILL NUMBER): HB 796
SPECIFIC ISSUE: _____
SUBJECT MATTER: _____

DO YOU FAVOR _____ OR OPPOSE THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION REGARDING THIS ISSUE?

WILL YOU HAVE A WRITTEN STATEMENT, VISUAL AIDS, OR OTHER MATERIAL TO DISTRIBUTE?

YES No _____

(IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES TO THE CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY)

See written statement below.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOUR TESTIMONY REQUIRE? Statement provided in writing

PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE GROUNDS ON WHICH YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE SUCH ENACTMENT **See Attached.**

Chairman Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the Civil Justice Committee,

Let me introduce myself. My name is Kathryn Knue Przywara. I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and I have lived in the Montgomery/Symmes Township area since 1988. My husband and I raised our two sons in Ohio and we are now the proud grandparents of two young grandsons. I am a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the Indiana University (Bloomington) School of Law. I am currently licensed to practice law in Ohio and the District of Columbia. After practicing law for over 30 years, I retired at the end of 2019. I am a reliable voter.

Thank you for allowing me to present my testimony today. I am strongly opposed to House Bill 796, which is being considered at the last minute during the lame duck session. Let me briefly summarize some of the many reasons for my opposition:

1. Stand Your Ground laws escalate rather than defuse situations with potentially fatal consequences and they perpetuate a shoot first and ask questions later mentality.
2. Such laws encourage vigilantism. By way of example, we see confrontations including the one in Kenosha, Wisconsin where two individuals were needlessly killed.
3. These laws have particularly devastating impacts on communities of color and there is significant risk about how the policy would be unfairly implemented in the streets and in the courts.
4. Studies and statistics suggest that Stand Your Ground laws are associated with an increase in firearm homicides and injuries and do not deter crime. By way of example, I direct your attention to a 2018 analysis (updated in 2020) by the Rand Corporation of studies of Stand Your Ground laws: <https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/analysis/stand-your-ground/violent-crime.html>. The analysis concluded: (a) ...there is *moderate evidence that stand-your-ground laws may increase total homicide rates ...*” and (b) ...”there is *supportive evidence that stand-your ground laws may increase firearm homicides.*”
5. Note that the proposed legislation is being opposed by the Ohio Associate of Chiefs of Police and the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association.
6. As you are well aware, individuals already can avail themselves of self-defense as an affirmative defense and, in instances where an individual acts in defense of themselves or another when occupying a residence or vehicle, the individual has a presumption of self-defense.
7. The proposed bill appears to do more than simply abolish the duty to retreat in other settings. It would eliminate the jury’s ability to consider the duty to retreat in determining whether a perceived threat was reasonable.
8. Current events make clear that the majority of citizens do not want these sorts of laws that escalate conflict and have disproportionate impacts on persons of color.

9. The adoption of such a law in Ohio does not make us appear to be a modern, forward thinking state where we want to encourage new businesses to locate and young people to live.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Knue Przywara