

Testimony on House Bill 796
Civil Justice Committee

Submitted by:
Leah Lilley

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.

I have lived in Ohio my entire life, first in Findlay and then in Columbus for the last 8 years. I am a licensed social worker in the state of Ohio who spent 4 years with Franklin County Children Services, although I now work in healthcare IT. I firmly believe in de-escalating violence and this bill would encourage the opposite. Research shows that this bill would not reduce violence, but could increase it. The knowledge that your actions are defensible and supported by those in power can have a major effect on people seeking to distribute their own judgment. The message our law sends should not be one that encourages violence when there are other peaceful alternatives.

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