

Federalism Committee Members –

I am a concerned citizen of the state of Ohio writing to you regarding HB 796.

It is my understanding that you will be considering HB 796 which would expand existing “stand your ground” laws in the state of Ohio.

The expansion of existing law would further eliminate the consideration of “the possibility of retreat” as a more appropriate action than the use of deadly force. The law would hamstring judges and juries from appropriately determining that “flight” was a more appropriate response than “fight” when considering specific cases before them. This bill – if enacted into law – would move “stand your ground” from a person’s residence or vehicle to anywhere “the person lawfully has a right to be”.

I believe the passage of this law would increase the use of deadly force by gun in the state of Ohio. Honestly, the last thing we need in the state of Ohio is more people pulling the trigger of their gun against other human beings. As you know, the onset of the pandemic spurred a significant increase in the purchase of guns by Ohioans. As a result, 2020 is turning out to be one of the costliest as it relates to gun violence. Homicides by gun are up significantly in 2020 as are suicides by gun. 2020 confirms the conclusion of various studies which have shown that increased gun ownership results in increased injury and death by firearms.

Many of you on the committee purport to be strong “pro-life” advocates and also supporters of “law and order”. If that were true, you would take reasonable steps to ensure that gun owners who use their weapons in a deadly manner do so only in instances that are truly a matter of life or death. HB 796 does exactly the opposite.

I strongly urge you to **not** move this bill through the Committee and to vote “no” if the bill comes up for a vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Wolf

Rocky River, Ohio