

Testimony on House Bill 796
Civil Justice Committee

Submitted by:
Elisa Loring

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.

Stand Your Ground is a license to kill. It allows a violent person to step outside, armed, look for a fight to escalate, then kill with a clean conscience.

While we have studies proving that Stand Your Ground laws have increased violence and injuries such as "McClellan CB, Tekin E. Stand your ground laws, homicides, and injuries. National Bureau of Economic Research. 2012", where is your study showing that stand your ground would reduce crime?

On average, 30 people nationwide are killed each month as a result of stand your ground laws. These deaths could be avoided and should be avoided.

When I read about the tragic deaths of Trayvon Martin or Markeis McGlockton, I am appalled that Stand Your Ground laws not only encouraged the murderers but also kept them on the street afterwards.

Stand Your Ground laws perpetuate and legitimize violence and have no place in any civilized society.

We need to remind our citizens that Self Defense laws are the solution.

Indeed, traditional law of Self Defense respects our right to self defense while keeping human life priceless.

Thank you for opposing Stand Your Ground. I trust you to join my plea and represent my opinion and values.

Elisa Loring