

December 7, 2020

Testimony in opposition to House Bill 796
Civil Justice Committee
Submitted by: Kate Schroder

Dear Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Brown and members of the committee,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit written testimony.

My name is Kate Schroder. As a mom of young kids and a public health leader, I am writing in opposition to HB 796. I am concerned that this legislation will increase unnecessary deaths due to gun violence.

I know all of us are concerned by the rising levels of gun violence and the many unnecessary deaths that are caused by this. My youngest child, Peter, is five years old and in kindergarten now. When he was just three years old in preschool, his school started active shooter drills. For parents, picking up a preschooler after an active shooter drill is a particularly haunting experience; the teachers are apologizing and explaining in hushed whispers what the kids have just been through. As a parent, you cannot help to wonder: What has our society come to when children in preschool are doing active shooter drills? We can and must do better in reducing gun violence through common sense gun-safety measures.

HB 796 is a step in the wrong direction. This bill would allow a person to shoot to kill in public, even when there is a clear and safe alternative. As a parent and public health leader, we need to advance measures that de-escalate and reduce gun violence; this bill would do the opposite. HB 796 would allow for escalated violence in situations that could be defused in other ways. Stand Your Ground has the potential to increase gun violence, rather than reducing it.

I hope that you will vote in accordance with the best interests of the children and communities you represent to reduce gun violence and oppose Stand your Ground legislation.

Thank you for your service and consideration of my testimony. I greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Schroder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Schroder
Member of the Board of Health, City of Cincinnati