

**Testimony on House Bill 796**

House Civil Justice Committee

Submitted By:

Ruth Lapp

My name is Ruth Lapp and I am writing you as a mother, grandmother, retired psychologist and university professor. I have lived and voted in Ohio for more than 50 years. I am opposed to HB 796, the Stand Your Ground bill. I am opposed to this bill for many reasons, but I will share only a few objections.

This bill will make us less safe. This is not just my opinion but the data from the 26 states that have expanded Stand your Ground laws show there is more gun violence due to escalating conflicts in states with expanded stand your ground laws.

There is no data showing it deters crime.

It appears to be a license to kill in any interaction a person deemed troubling or unusual to the environment as a black person in a certain kind of neighborhood.

This is particularly true in Florida for example.

Finally, I have been affected by at least 5 situations in the past 5 years involving murder. Never before in my 75 years have I known personally anyone affected by gun violence. One incident involved a robbery. A second I knew both the perpetrators and the victim and it was over a dispute. The third was a family member of a mass murderer. There is such heartache for these and all incidents involving gun violence, and this bill will only lead to more. Instead, legislators should be looking for common sense ways to reduce gun violence, such as requiring background checks on all gun sales. As I collected signatures advocating for universal background checks on guns last year, I found almost everyone supporting it and signing. This is what the citizens want.

This bill makes us less safe. Please vote against HB 796.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Lapp

I am writing you as a mother, grandmother, retired psychologist and university professor.

I oppose SB 383 Stand Your Ground bill

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