

Testimony on House Bill 796
Civil Justice Committee

Submitted by:
Monica Wilson

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.

Dear Honorables, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony. My name is Monica Wilson and I am resident of Parma, OH and a concerned citizen for justice.

The bill SB 383, is part of the long narrative of governing by fear and anger. Fear - as if anyone would ever find themselves in a situation where they would need to use a gun; Anger - you don't have to retreat to deescalate and have every right to shoot another human being because they are in your space.

This bill will have a devastating effect on African Americans and will lead to more innocent and decent citizens being murdered. The bill assumes that the person using this "stand your ground", is moral and has every good intention to do the right thing, when we've seen over and over again, that it's been used simply out of anger with the presumption of guilt of African Americans. There have been several high profile cases in other states of a young unarmed Black man shot to death by a White male shooter using the "stand your ground" act as a defense.

And what problem is this bill solving? What pressing issue will this law solve and who wants it? There is nothing concrete to propel this law other than fear and anger. Some lawmakers are invoking these within our citizenry to push their own agenda which will only serve to increase the fissure that exists along race and class.

This is a bad bill that solves no problems, will increase the death of our citizens and will cause mayhem and destruction. Do not pass this bill and please put it to rest.

Monica Wilson

