

Ken Krummrich

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HB 796 Stand Your Ground

Opposition Testimony.

As we rebuild our state economy after the pandemic, we need people of all colors to feel safe when shopping, eating out and being in public places. As a father and husband, I am constantly watching my environment when I'm out with my family, always alert to situations that might be dangerous. Research shows that in FL where they have Stand Your Ground Laws, most people who are killed were not even armed!! In many instances, the person who claimed Stand Your Ground "immunity" had a criminal record. So now, as a father, I have to worry that someone in my family will bump into someone in a public space, or unknowingly take someone else parking space and be shot for it because they shooter felt "threatened?" I worry that if my wife reaches into her purse to get her cell phone to call for help, some idiot will think she's reaching for a gun and so will shoot her. If each of the recent protestors had felt free to shoot someone who couldn't get away fast enough, THEY would have had the right to claim Stand Your Ground. And WHO is perceived to be a "threat? Often young black men. A recipe for disaster in these tumultuous times! More uncertainty, more anxiety about being in public spaces is NOT what we need right now. We need to be able to come together and trust each other if our state, our country and our economy is to survive.

Our most vulnerable citizens are especially impacted by gun violence. About 7,500 Black Americans die by gun homicide every year. Compared to a young white male, a young black male is 20 times more likely to die because of a firearm-related homicide. Compared to non-Hispanic white women, Black women are twice as likely to be fatally shot by an intimate partner. Gun Violence is the leading cause of death for black children in Ohio and in the US. Every year, 2,900 American children (of all colors) are shot and killed in the US. 113 of Ohio's children die from gun violence yearly. The costs of gun violence often burden areas and populations that are already economically and socially marginalized. Gun homicides are also associated with fewer jobs, lost businesses and lower home values in local economies and communities across the nation.*Source: A State-by-State Examination of the Economic Costs of Gun Violence. U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee Democratic Staff. September 18, 2019

We cannot reopen our state if we all feel "hunted" by a trigger happy gun carrier. The current laws for self protection are sufficient. Reject HB 796.

Sincerely,

Ken Krummrich