

Opponent Testimony HB 796
From Dena Lishing

To the Chairman and Committee Members,

My name is Dena Lishing. My 11 year old son, Caleb, was shot and killed at his father's parent's house, while he slept. He was shot by his older brother who got hold of an unsecured gun. If the gun had been locked up properly this could have been avoided.

I am very upset that the Ohio Legislature keeps trying to pass laws, like Stand Your Ground, that will encourage more shootings around our children. If people think they can shoot anyone and get away with it, just by claiming they felt threatened, more arguments will end up in shootings. Even trained policemen have poor accuracy in a stressful situation. The average gun owner is a lousy shot when they are mad or scared. And who are the bystanders who are likely to get shot? Families and children. In fact, the most frequent cause of childhood homicide deaths is being caught in the middle of a domestic shooting. Florida saw a 32% rise in homicides after they passed Stand Your Ground.

My son's death is something I live with every day. Time does not take that away. It's a hole in my heart that cannot be filled or replaced. It could be your family member it happens to. Everyone thinks "Oh no, not me". I thought the same thing. Now I'm a number along with Caleb and know the pain of loss every day. No family should have to go through this. More shootings means more deaths.

Vote NO on HB 796

Sincerely,
Dena Lishing