



**OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE, INC.**

**HB 796**  
**Testimony in Opposition**  
**Chief Bruce Pijanowski, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police**

Chairman Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee. I am Bruce Pijanowski, the Chief of Police for the City of Delaware representing the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in opposition to the proposed modifications to the self-defense law contained in H.B. 796.

This committee has seen prior written testimony about our concern for the mixed messaging this bill sends. We ask that you continue to consider those concerns. Please see below for your additional consideration:

- Current law permits self-defense. 2901.05 O.R.C. requires proof beyond a reasonable doubt that the accused did not use force in self-defense in order to obtain a conviction. If your life is in danger you may defend yourself.
- Nowhere in the Ohio Revised Code is there a duty to retreat if your life is in danger. There is a presumption of self-defense in one's own residence. There is not and should not be a presumption outside of a residence, but the law has already addressed these situations when the affirmative defense was removed and instead the burden of proof was placed on the state to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that someone used force and that the use of force was not in self-defense.
- There is no proportionality. HB 796 allows for force necessary to prevent injury, loss, or risk to life and safety. How minimal does "loss" or "injury" or "risk to safety" have to be before killing someone is not justified.
- Firearms and permissive firearm legislation do not dissuade violence. There is supportive evidence that Stand Your Ground laws increase firearms homicides. ([Rand.org/research/gun-policy/analysis.html](http://Rand.org/research/gun-policy/analysis.html))
- There must be a balanced conversation about gun ownership, responsible use, the value of life, and negative outcomes that this legislation may have.

OACP respectfully requests that you vote No on HB 796. Thank you for your consideration.