

Testimony on House Bill 796 House Civil Justice Committee

Submitted by: Andrea Kovesdi

Chair Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing my written testimony in opposition to HB 796. I am a lifelong Ohioan living in Independence. I am also a regular voter.

When I saw that there would be a hearing this week on a Stand Your Ground bill, I had a very unpleasant feeling of déjà vu. Yes, we've been here before. Perhaps in another committee with a different bill number but it seems that those who have been elected to represent the citizens of Ohio insist on trying to push a dangerous and unwanted bill through. This bill was not wanted when over 100 people testified against Stand Your Ground six months ago. And, it is still not wanted. The opponents at that time were nearly ten times the number of proponents.

Where is the need for changing our current self-defense laws in Ohio? Increasing the opportunity to shoot first and ask questions later is not what our state needs. States with Stand Your Ground laws see increases in firearm homicide and injuries. In an average month, at least 30 people nationwide are killed as a result of these types of laws. In addition, there are no studies showing that Stand Your Ground laws deter crime.

HB 796 will not make Ohio a safer place. It will add to the number of homicides in our state. Haven't we seen enough death? Don't we have real issues to address instead of creating new ways that we can "legally" kill each other? Why not work on decreasing gun violence. There have been bills introduced in this statehouse that would actually do just that. Take action that would really help the people of Ohio.

I ask you to carefully consider all the testimonies that you have heard and read on this issue and make the right decision on HB 796-it is NOT what Ohioans want!

Thank you for your time.