

Opposition Testimony on HB 796

Civil Justice Committee

Submitted by: Jennifer Madaffer

To Chairman Hambley and Committee Members,

I am writing this testimony as a private, and very concerned, citizen. The proposed Stand Your Ground bill HB 796 would put Ohio children, families, and communities at risk. This bill would allow people to shoot to kill in *even when there is a clear and safe alternative*. Businesses may be privately owned but the courts have already ruled several times that they are spaces of public use. We customers are the ones who will be killed in stores or parking lots when violence escalates from arguments to shootings. Why would we encourage such violence in our communities? Why would we give private citizens more leeway to shoot than the US military gives to our highly-trained soldiers in a war zone? Its already been clearly demonstrated that states where Stand Your Ground laws have been enacted see an increase in homicide rates. For example, the implementation of Florida's Stand Your Ground law was associated with a 32 percent increase in firearm homicides, and a 24 percent increase in overall homicides. In 79 percent of Florida's cases, the person who claimed Stand Your Ground could have retreated to avoid the confrontation. In 68 percent of cases, the person killed was unarmed. We cannot allow this to happen to our Ohio communities! There is no proof that Stand Your Ground laws deter crime, so what is the reason for enacting it?

Please put the safety of your constituents first and reject HB 796.

Thank you,

Jen Madaffer

