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Opposition to Stand Your Ground – This is NOT the Wild Wild West!

Dear Representatives Hambley and Brown,

I want to write to you and let you know that I oppose HB 796, Ohio's Stand Your Ground bill and its amendment that makes this bill even worse! It seems to me it would allow a person to shoot and kill in public, even if there was a clear and safe alternative. Stand Your Ground laws encourage escalated violence in situations that could be defused in other ways. In an average month, at least 30 people are killed nationwide as a result of Stand Your Ground bills, thus increasing firearm homicide and injuries! There are no studies that show Stand Your Ground laws deter crime.

The American Bar Association found that the application of Stand Your Ground laws is "unpredictable, uneven, and results in racial disparities." Stand Your Ground laws have a disproportionate effect on communities of color

Stand Your Ground would needlessly endanger lives at a time as Ohioans are still recovering from the tragic massacre in Dayton, as well as the everyday gun violence that plagues communities across the state, without seeing any meaningful reform. I have also attached the letter from Chiefs of Police around the state with their rationale for their opposition to this Bill.

Please do not vote for this dangerous bill, that will only make our state more dangerous and unsafe!

Thank you,  
Donna Malone