

Testimony on House Bill 381
House Criminal Justice Committee

Submitted by:
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Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Leland and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to HB381. I am a concerned citizen who loves her city, state, and country, but above all chooses to love her neighbors. I oppose this bill because it will make Ohioans less safe.

We are at a point of unrest, and the root cause of that unrest is the persistent, unwarranted violence against our neighbors, specifically black men. The unrest is not just a result of the death of George Floyd, but the accumulation of events prior to his death, including the death of Ahmaud Arbery just a few months ago. During this time, it makes no sense to push a law that further exacerbates the current issue of inequitable treatment. Stand your ground laws are used to justify the unjustifiable. In fact, when white shooters kill black victims, the resulting homicides are deemed justifiable 11 times more frequently than when the shooter is black and the victim is white*.

Making Ohio safe involves addressing the root causes of our unrest. I oppose HB381 because it runs in opposition to the goal of keeping our citizens safe.

*Roman, J. (2013). Race, Justifiable Homicide, and Stand Your Ground Laws: Analysis of FBI Supplementary Homicide Report Data. Urban Institute Retrieved from <http://urbn.is/2gGvGvM>