

Chairman Lang, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the Ohio House Criminal Justice Committee,

My name is Nicole Beckett. I am an engineer from Cincinnati, Ohio. I am unable to be present for the hearing today, but I wanted to submit my written testimony stating that I am strongly opposed to HB 381 - Stand Your Ground.

Studies have shown that Stand Your Ground laws actually increase homicide rates in states where they have been passed. According to a study from the American Bar Association in 2014: "After nearly 10 years of Stand Your Ground laws, the data on the controversial self-defense law is in and the results are not very impressive. Stand Your Ground laws increase homicides, have no deterrent on serious crimes, result in racial disparities in the criminal justice system and impede law enforcement."

At this time when Americans across the country are marching in support of Black men and women harmed by violence, the last thing we need is another law that encourages violence and moreover encourages it against people of color.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this dangerous bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Nicole Beckett
45202, OH
(321) 480-7849
nicki.beckett@gmail.com