

Hello,

I am submitting my testimony in opposition to HB 381.

Ohioans already have a right to self-defense. This bill removes the obligation to NOT use deadly force when someone seems threatening in a public space, if you can avoid it.

This type of law in other states has been shown to have deadly racial bias.

The unrest in Ohio is calming down, and the people of Ohio and their city representatives, and law enforcement are in the beginning stages of talking and addressing the issues that have been raised by the death of George Floyd.

If this bill passes it will encourage more Ohioans to resort to physical violence in the middle of a conflict. More people will feel justified to get their guns and use them against other Ohio citizens.

People will use the changes to HB381 to justify hunting down, and attacking other citizens, and intervening inappropriately on their own, as opposed to contacting law enforcement.

This type of law led to the deaths of Trayvon Martin & Ahmaud Arberry. Trayvon was a teenager going to the store to buy skittles and Ahmaud was jogging. Trayvon's murderer was not convicted, due to this type of law.

The Ohio House of Representatives should be considering bills to address the thousands of people in the State of Ohio calling for police reforms, and protesting against racial bias.

The Ohio House of Representatives should not be trying to modify an existing law in a way that will lead more people, to try to take the law into their own hands.

The Ohio House and Senate Representatives should be trying to lead Ohioans in addressing police reform and racial equity concerns at a time like this, not encouraging Ohioans to arm themselves and attack other Ohio citizens.

I do not think I can testify in person today, so I am sending this email as my written testimony.

Please respond so that I know my testimony has been received.

Please feel free to contact me.

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