Dear Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee,

I'm a law abiding citizen, veteran of the USMC who exercises his right to vote. I'm submitting my testimony in support of Senate Bill 237 by Senator Terry Johnson and ask that you support and vote yes on Senate Bill 237.

As part of my testimony and as to why I support this bill, I have provided for reference below a general definition for use of deadly force.

"Deadly force is generally justified if individual reasonably believe that he or she is, or other innocent lives are in imminent danger of death or serious injury."

In regards to SB237, there are scenarios in which there may not be time to retreat.  Below I provide for reference a well published study about how quickly an attack can take place.

"How Close is Too Close" or "The 21 foot rule."

"The **Tueller Drill** is a training exercise to prepare against a short-range knife or melee attack when armed only with a holstered handgun.

Sgt. Dennis Tueller of the Salt Lake City Police Dept. wanted to determine how quickly an attacker with a knife, or other melee weapon could cover 21 feet (6.4 m). So he timed volunteers as they raced to stab a target. He determined that it could be done in 1.5 seconds. These results were first published as an article in SWAT magazine in 1983 and in a police training video by the same title, "How Close Is Too Close?"

A defender with a gun has a dilemma. If he shoots too early, he risks being accused of murder. If he waits until the attacker is definitely within striking range so there is no question about motives, he risks injury and even death. The Tueller experiments quantified a "danger zone" where an attacker presented a clear threat.

The Tueller Drill combines both parts of the original time trials by Tueller. There are several ways it can be conducted:

1. The (simulated) attacker and shooter are positioned back-to-back. At the signal, the "attacker" sprints away from the shooter, and the shooter unholsters his gun and shoots at the target 21 feet (6.4 m) in front of him. The attacker stops as soon as the shot is fired. The shooter is successful only if his shot is good and if the runner did not cover 21 feet (6.4 m).
2. A more stressful arrangement is to have the attacker begin 21 feet (6.4 m) behind the shooter and run towards the shooter. The shooter is successful only if he was able take a good shot before he is tapped on the back by the attacker.
3. If the shooter is armed with only a training replica gun, a full-contact drill may be done with the attacker running towards the shooter. In this variation, the shooter should practice side-stepping the attacker while he is drawing the gun.

The TV show "Myth Busters" covered the drill in the 2012 episode "Duel Dilemmas". At 20 ft (6.1 m), the gun-wielder was able to shoot the charging knife attacker just as he reached the shooter. At shorter distances the knife wielder was always able to stab prior to being shot."

Self-defense is a human right, and SB237 would recognize that. Ohio law has by default sided with the criminal over the law-abiding citizen by placing a burden of proof on the citizen, and SB237 would change that.

From removing a lawful citizen's requirement to retreat from an attacker, to the establishment of pretrial hearings, to the codifying of de-escalation tools for violent situations, every part of this bill is common sense.

The fact is, Stand-Your-Ground law does NOT increase violent crime or empower people to kill others with impunity, as the entire concept of SB237 and self-defense is based on the common-law principle of the "reasonable man."

Contrary to what opponents will say, this bill does not make it harder for law-enforcement or prosecutors to do their jobs because investigation and conviction standards are not changed in this bill!

As a lawful citizen of this great state, I urge this committee to vote YES on SB237 and pass it out of committee with no weakening amendments or changes.