I'm submitting this testimony in favor of Senate Bill 237 by Senator Terry Johnson because self-defense is a human right, and SB237 would recognize that.

For far too long, Ohio law has by default sided with the criminal over the law-abiding, 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 deescalation 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!

Constitutional carry and Stand your Ground should be granted because the federal government granted our right to bare arms. If I get into a deadly encounter, I’m forced to retreat, while in that deadly encounter, retreat may not be safe and may not be possible. Our legal system is corrupt. All I gotta do is pay for a 10 hour class that gives me 8 hours of class time, and 2 hours of range time, and it’s hard or difficult to make it to a class like that especially with the prices. They only really teach parts of the firearms different types of firearms, how to use the sights. It doesn’t give us significant training. Plus think about this, I can go around and open carry, without a CHL, perfectly fine. I take that handgun that I’m open carrying and I put a jacket over it, cause it’s cold, now it’s a misdemeanor 1, $1,000 and 6 months in jail! A ridiculous punishment, just for putting a coat over it, and get this, now if I go into a vehicle with it and get pulled over, I’m now facing a FELONY!!!!!! How come a law abiding citizen can’t carry concealed or in a car to protect themselves, when a violent criminal, violates those same laws and tries to hurt me, what do I do then? I am a conceal carrier, and I just started carrying, the reason being, I work at a gas station overnight, I’ve been there for 2 years and been robbed 3 times. 3 times I faced imminent fear of death or great bodily harm, because I wasn’t of age at the time, I couldn’t conceal carry, and why should I have to back myself into a corner where I have no where to retreat, where I have no upper advantage, and I might be dead before I even get to that point. When second counts police are minutes away. The average response time for the 3 robberies was 5 minutes. I’m just an honest man trying to work and make my money, and legally I have to retreat, before even making a move to my weapon, when imminent deadly force is there. I don’t want to hear “Well they’re only their for the money.” Go on Active Self Protection on YouTube and watch some of their videos, not all robbers get there, go in grab the money and leave the victim alive. Once my robbers come out of jail, I might be driving on my way down the road, and might be forced to defend myself against one of them. I’m tired of these nonsense laws, and vote for the people to protect themselves the way this country was founded.

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.