

Rachel Dunn -- 1/20/2020
SB 237 Opponent Testimony
Government Oversight and Reform Committee
Senator William Coley, Chair

My name is Rachel Dunn and I write to you as a wife, a mother of three very small children, a nurse practitioner and a resident of Upper Arlington. In nursing, as well as in medicine, we base our practice on what the best evidence tells us. You wouldn't want your cardiologist performing surgery based on faulty science just because it feels good to him or her - right? The same logic should apply to gun reform policy. RAND Corporation, a think-tank that tends to be ranked as leaning conservative or centrist, found that the most rigorous studies with the strongest study design support the notion that Stand Your Ground Laws do little to deter crime and actually increase incidences of violent crime (<https://www.rand.org/blog/2019/09/stand-your-ground-laws-increase-violence.html>).

There are multiple examples out of the state of Florida that point out how Stand Your Ground protects people with violent histories and has been invoked as an attempt to protect cowards who thought they were acting in self-defence, but clearly were not (<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/04/opinion/stand-your-ground-makes-no-sense.html>). I ask you, why would we introduce a law that has the potential to increase the likelihood that an argument at a crowded Ohio State tailgate might turn deadly? According to RAND Corp, the best-designed research we have shows us that Stand Your Ground laws have the potential to do just that. And let's not overlook the very real fact that when these Stand Your Ground incidents occur, there are often innocent by-standers around who may end up being wounded or murdered unintentionally.

We can make a stronger and safer Ohio by making responsibility the focus of gun ownership, rather than encouraging a mentality that promotes shoot first and ask questions later.