

Government Oversight and Reform Committee,
Opposition Testimony on SB 383
Debbie Toder, MD
12/7/2020

Dear Chair and Committee,

I am a Pediatric Pulmonologist, member of the American Academy of Pediatrics and an Ohio resident who always votes. I take care of children whose lives and those of their families have been forever destroyed by gun violence. Gun violence is the second leading cause of death in children overall, and the first leading cause of death of black children. Sixty percent of pediatric gun deaths in Ohio are due to gun homicides, most frequently when they are caught in the middle of a dispute among adults in their home or in public. As a physician, I rely on research and best practice guidelines to make decisions. I must think carefully about the course of action I recommend for each patient and choose the safest, most efficacious treatment for them. Now you must think carefully about the best way to stem Ohio's ever increasing gun violence epidemic. The research is clear. A Rand "Mega" study concluded that Stand Your Ground laws result in increased gun deaths and injuries. Children nearby are at risk for being the unintended victim when a panicked shooter misses their target. Stand Your Ground contributes to unnecessary escalation of violence when one or the other adult could have just left the scene. In Florida, more than 67% of the victims of "Stand Your Ground" shootings were not armed and in 70% of the cases. The shooter could just have safely left the scene of the argument.

I urge you to oppose Stand Your Ground.

Thank you,
Debbie Toder, MD
