

Opposition Testimony on Senate Bill 383  
Stand Your Ground  
Government Oversight and Reform Committee  
Submitted by:  
Penny Hubbard

Chairman Coley and Committee,

I am opposed to SB 383, Stand Your Ground. A study by the Rand Corp, which reviewed all the other recently published studies, found a strong level of evidence that Stand Your Ground Laws increase gun homicides and injuries in states that have such laws. I'm sure you're familiar with what happened in Florida when they passed Stand Your Ground. Their homicide rate increased by more than 30%. I don't understand why we would want to follow their example.

Stand Your Ground laws unfairly impact people of color. This bill allows people to shoot someone just because they "perceived" them to be a threat (even if they weren't armed). And young black males are more likely to be perceived as a threat than white males. Research shows that when a black person tries to invoke Stand Your Ground as their defense they are 13 times LESS LIKELY to be successful in that claim than when a white shooter claims a Stand Your Ground Defense. We cannot afford this kind of racial injustice in Ohio.

More than 500 Ohioans die from gun violence each year. Ohio's gun homicide rate went up 27% in the 1<sup>st</sup> 6 months of 2020 which is much higher than the national average. This bill will increase that number even more. Please, reject SB 383.

Respectfully submitted,  
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