

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
COMMITTEE
HOUSE BILL 383
9 December 2020

Senate Bill 383 is not about shoot first, ask questions later. It's not about inspiring others to take violent actions. It's not about racial bias. It is not about giving individuals unfettered power and discretion. To the contrary, the legally armed citizen **MUST** meet the criteria that the Ohio Supreme Court has set forth: It is not about starting or escalating a situation. It's not about anything except protecting your life when you are threatened with death or great bodily harm when you are in a location where you have a legal right to be.

SB 383 follows more than 100 years of legal tradition in the United States. One of the first instances of self-defense and stand your ground theology came from the *Beard v U.S.* case in 1895. The Supreme Court ruled unanimously that an innocent person under attack is not obliged to retreat. And to that end, the justification for self defense may be rebutted by a preponderance of the evidence, provided that the prosecutor's burden of proof remains proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

Senior citizens have a vested interest in this bill passing. Many, if not most, aren't strong enough or fast enough to take on a 20 year old street punk. Please remember this as you consider HB 383 before you. As a director of Ohioans for Concealed Carry, an organization fighting for the rights of Ohio's concealed handgun licensees whose number is well in excess of 100,000 citizens, we urge you to pass this bill out of committee to the full floor of the Senate.

Thank you.

Gary Witt
Director, Ohioans for Concealed Carry

