

GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT AND REFORM COMMITTEE

OPPOSITION TESTIMONY SB 383

STAND YOUR GROUND

12/6/2020

I am a Stark County, Ohio homeowner, mother of two young children and a pediatric Speech Language Pathologist at Akron Children's Hospital. I strongly oppose SB 383. Current Ohio law on already provides justice in self-defense situations. No proponent of this bill has identified any court decision in Ohio where the application of a duty to retreat resulted in an injustice. This bill would prevent the court/jury from even considering the possibility of retreat before shooting. A court/jury would have to acquit anyone who claimed self-defense—rewarding trigger-happy vigilantes with a free pass to shoot. As a result, innocent people will die. In Florida, for example, 68% of the Stand Your Ground victims were not even armed. Experience has shown that this bill will make people feel that they can escalate any argument into shooting.

Thank you,

Monica Harmon