

Testimony on Senate Bill 383
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Kathleen Ross

Chair Coley, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 383.

My name is Kathleen C. Ross. I am an Ohio resident and registered voter residing in Lorain County. I write to you today to convey my strong opposition to the Stand Your Ground bills being considered: HB796 and SB383.

Each and every day I read about local gun violence in my newspaper and learn of further gun violence on local newscasts. My heart aches as I learn of the families devastated: mothers burying their children, families left without a parent, a young life ended for what purpose? How can we, a supposedly civilized community, state, country, continue to witness such devastation. Even more disturbing, how can we introduce legislation that will exacerbate such gun violence?

This legislation will allow a person to shoot to kill in public. The gun violence associated with "kill at will" affects more than just the shooter and the victim(s). Families and communities feel the effects of such violence; the damage is irreparable. Surely we should be striving to rise above such a violent and radical solution to a threatening situation. Stand Your Ground needlessly endangers lives. We must be better than this!

I ask that the committee vote against the Stand Your Ground bill.

Kathleen Ross