

Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Opposition Testimony on SB 383

Barb McCarren

Dear Chairman Coley and Committee Members,

I am a long-time resident of Stark County, OH, a former teacher, and mother of two young men. I am completely against Stand Your Ground laws in public spaces. These laws create a public perception that people can legally shoot anyone who makes them “feel” threatened. I can’t think of anything more disruptive to the well-being of my family and our community. When Florida passed this law, 68% of the people who were shot were not armed. Reliable research has shown that Stand Your Ground laws tend to escalate violence and increase shootings. Our shopping centers, offices, parks and government buildings are not the place for “martial law”, carried out by “trigger-happy” shooters.

Remember that these laws protect criminals as well as law abiding citizens. Stand Your Ground makes it virtually impossible to investigate or prosecute any shooter. What a gift to criminals, those with a personal vengeance or just unduly anxious people with a gun. The Ohio Chiefs of Police and Ohio Association of Prosecuting Attorneys have both opposed Stand Your Ground laws. We should listen to the research and our knowledgeable public servants and reject SB 383.

A concerned citizen,

Barbara McCarren