

**Testimony on Senate Bill 383**  
**Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee**  
**December 8, 2020**

**Submitted by:**  
**Ruth Lapp**

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

My name is Ruth Lapp and I am writing you as a mother, grandmother, retired psychologist and university professor. I have lived and voted in Ohio for more than 50 years. I am opposed to SB 383, the Stand Your Ground bill. I am opposed to this bill for many reasons, but I will share only a few objections.

This bill will make us less safe. This is not just my opinion but the data from the 26 states that have expanded Stand your Ground laws show there is more gun violence due to escalating conflicts in states with expanded stand your ground laws.

There is no data showing it deters crime.

It appears to be a license to kill in any interaction a person deemed troubling or unusual to the environment as a black person in a certain kind of neighborhood.

This is particularly true in Florida for example.

Finally, I have been affected by at least 5 situations in the past 5 years involving murder. Never before in my 75 years have I known personally anyone affected by gun violence. One incident involved a robbery. A second I knew both the perpetrators and the victim and it was over a dispute. The third was a family member of a mass murderer. There is such heartache for these and all incidents involving gun violence, and this bill will only lead to more. Instead, legislators should be looking for common sense ways to reduce gun violence, such as requiring background checks on all gun sales. As I collected signatures advocating for universal background checks on guns last year, I found almost everyone supporting it and signing. This is what the citizens want.

This bill makes us less safe. Please vote against SB 383.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Lapp