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Government Oversight and Reform Committee  
Opposition Testimony SB 383

Dear Chairman Coley and Committee,

I am a 33-year Ohio resident, voter and taxpayer, and I am writing in opposition to House Bill 383.

Stand Your Ground legislation has led to tragic outcomes in states where it already has been enacted, most notably in Florida. We have seen enough examples of innocent citizens shot by self-appointed community guardians. If unstable individuals know they can shoot to kill another citizen with impunity, they surely will do so. To give them such an opportunity, especially in such a politically and culturally volatile environment as we are living in this year, all but guarantees tragic outcomes in Ohio communities.

It would seem that the principal objective of such legislation is not to deter crime, but to empower self-styled vigilantes with chips on their shoulders and itchy trigger fingers. In fact the recent proliferation of gun-friendly legislation leads me to question whether the Ohio legislature is less interested in supporting a civil society than in fomenting anarchy and mayhem.

Please do not advance HB 383.

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