

Testimony on Senate Bill 383
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
karen kopack

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.

I am writing this testimony to firmly disagree with any and all Stand your ground legislation. I have been an Ohio resident my entire life. I have raised three children here and planned to live here for many years to come. However, As a former social worker, a mother to a soon to be teacher, I have serious concerns regarding the Ohio State Legislature and its insistence on putting dangerous Stand Your Ground laws like HB796 and SB383 in place. As a result, my family is seriously reconsidering our future plans to stay in Ohio. I do not want to live in a place that basically gives someone the right to shoot me because they are mad about something. it is irresponsible. I know that these laws actually increase violence and are not a deterrent. As a former social worker, Im very concerned for people of color, low income, those with mental health issues, our veterans who suffer from PTSD, etc.....as they are already at a higher risk to be victims of violence. I am urging members of the Ohio Legislature to just stop this craziness, and not to support these bills.

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