



May 22, 2024

RE: Support of S.B. 32

Good morning Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, ranking member Hicks-Hudson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I testify in support of S.B. 32.

Our country has been plagued by violent attacks on innocent people, especially in schools and houses of worship. Trends show an increase in both the number of events and the casualties per event.

There are notable exceptions where individuals responding from inside the building have stopped the attacker greatly limiting the number of people killed and injured. Fortunately, this is also an increasing trend.

Traditional first responders are given qualified immunity because their jobs demand it. Ohio law is defective in failing to provide appropriate protections to others responding to and eliminating deadly threats.

When anyone is responding to an active killer or threat of violence in an attempt to save innocent lives, they should be protected from liability resulting in a killer's actions and well-meaning attempts to stop the killing and save innocent lives. We should encourage people to take an active role in protecting themselves, their families, and their fellow citizens in moments of peril.

S.B. 32 appropriately and reasonably establishes protections for those who choose to act, including putting themselves in harms way for the benefit of society. It is a good bill that will result in good public policy. I urge its passage.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jim Irvine is an advocate for liberty, people's right to bear arms and self-defense. He serves on the Board of Directors of Second Amendment Foundation and Buckeye Firearms Foundation.