

Adrienne Wagner
November 17, 2020
Testimony on House Bill 248
House Federalism Committee

Dear Chair Becker, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to write to you in opposition to HB 248. I am writing today as a concerned private citizen, a parent, an employee of a local family-owned business, and a community member.

I oppose this bill because it will make Ohioans less safe, by encouraging the escalation of violence in public places when such violence is avoidable. As you know, multiple independent studies and different data sets reinforce the relationship between Stand Your Ground laws and an increase in firearm homicides. Please consider your duty to the safety of your constituents and do not advance this bill.

As you also know, data show that Stand Your Ground laws disproportionately negatively impact black people. Multiple peer-reviewed studies have reached this conclusion. We know that, in states with Stand Your Ground laws, white Americans who kill black Americans successfully claim self-defense 36% of the time. Meanwhile, black Americans who kill white Americans successfully claim self-defense just 3% of the time. The combination of Stand Your Ground legislation and racial bias is deadly for black people. This is unjust and unfair, and it has no place here in Ohio.

Beyond the Stand Your Ground provisions in this bill, it also makes your constituents less safe by encouraging carry of more guns into more places and by younger adults, including in and near schools, and college campuses. These provisions increase the risk of violence in and around schools and among young adults.

Most concerning, the method being used to pass this bill seems intentionally designed to conceal the provisions of this potential law from Ohio citizens and the lawmakers themselves. Replacing a simple, six-page bill about antique handguns with a complex and lengthy bill covering many important and current topics, with little notice during lame duck is an attempt to avoid thoughtful analysis and debate. **The citizens of Ohio demand better than these bad faith efforts to sneak looser gun laws past us with little consideration, publicity, or debate.**

Please reject HB 248.

Thank you,

Adrienne Wagner