

Written Statement on Behalf of a Concerned Ohioan

For a Hearing on

**H. B. No. 248**

**Submitted to the Ohio House Federalism Committee**

Submitted by Ms. Madelaine Baker

**December 1, 2020**

Good afternoon and thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns regarding the proposed Stand Your Ground Law. My name is Madelaine Baker, and I am a Senior at Denison University in Granville, Licking County, Ohio. Although, I am not originally from Ohio, it has been my home for the last three years and I am proud to live here and to call myself an Ohioan. After becoming aware of possible changes to Stand Your Ground, I am increasingly concerned for the safety threat it poses to myself, my friends, family and the lives of all other Ohioans. Due to these concerns, I am calling on you to reject Stand Your Ground and the damage it would do to our state.

Every year over 1,400 Ohioans die as a result of gun violence, with one person every six hours being killed. Given the significance of these statistics, we should be looking at the different ways we can save lives. Unfortunately, I don't believe changes to Stand Your Ground will be effective at doing so. Supporters have suggested that the bill will allow for greater defence protocols, which in turn deter violent crime. However, there is research suggesting this is not the case and that Stand Your Ground Laws in fact endanger our lives. The American Medical Association found that following the implementation of Stand Your Ground in Florida, there was a 24.4% increase in homicides overall and a 32% increase in firearm-related homicides.

It scares me to think that this uptake in homicide would translate to Ohioan lives lost. I worry that younger family members will be endangered and that the state will become increasingly unsafe for those who love it. Gun violence is already the second-leading cause of death for children ages 1-17 in Ohio and I can't bear for the child death toll to increase. We have already lost so many people in the last year, please don't allow this bill to take more from us.

As a legislative representative of this state, you have a responsibility to guard Ohioans against danger. I urge you to take this role seriously and to reject this implementation of Stand Your Ground. I hope that you will take your duty of protection into consideration and that you will think of the thousands of lives you hold in your hands.

Thank you, for taking the time and listening to me, and again please reject Stand Your Ground and the irreversible harm it will do to Ohio and all those living within it.