

Testimony in favor of House Bill 381:

Stand your ground laws provide important protection to citizens trying to protect themselves from criminals. In a situation where a person is under attack, he/she should not be expected to take extraordinary measures to avoid the conflict that he/she did not initiate. Such a demand only gives more power and control to the attacker. Our laws must protect law-abiding people over the lawbreakers.

Imagine your spouse or child being confronted by an aggressive assailant while walking to their car. Should they have to try to run away? What if there are no obvious (or safe) places to hide? What if there are multiple attackers? What if the potential victim is elderly or disabled?

We can't burden innocent people with such a requirement when defending their lives. People should not be held liable for responding with force when they are under attack. Criminals are the primary beneficiaries of a requirement to retreat. For the sake of your families, friends, and law-abiding constituents, please vote YES on HB381. Thank you.

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