

Chairman Lang, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Leland , and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Ben Sharritt. I am from Cincinnati OH and am a Special Education Teacher. I strongly oppose HB 381.

After 15 years of stand your ground laws in other states, the research is clear. These laws increase homicide rates, do not deter crime, and are anti-black. These laws are steeped in the American tradition of the desire to appear "honorable" and the lie that individuals have the authority and righteousness to enact justice as they desire. This dangerous myth has ended the life of innocent people and allowed killers to walk free. We as American's must understand that we have a responsibility to the collective good. Let us end the American myth that one heroic man must enact justice to maintain his honor, and instead double down on our duty to retreat for the public good.

Please make Ohio safer by voting no on this bill. I am taking the courageous stance that more death is bad, and it is proven that Stand your Ground laws create more death.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I will now take any questions you may have.