

Testimony opposing HB 381 Stand Your Ground to House Criminal Justice Committee

Chair Rep. George Lang, Vice Chair Rep. Phil Plummer and Ranking Member Rep. David Leland,

Sirs,

I am writing in opposition to HB 381 Stand Your Ground. You have received copious amounts of evidenced based research data concerning Stand Your Ground (SYG) and for some reason choose to ignore the fact that states that have SYG have an increased number of injuries/deaths from guns. Is that keeping communities safer?

SYG negatively impacts Black and Brown communities disproportionately yet you continue to try to pass HB 381. That looks awfully tone-deaf to the civil unrest happening all over the United States calling for equality and justice for Blacks. How does SYG support equality and justice for Blacks...it does not. In fact, you are sending the message that you support a bill that would cause harm to Blacks.

Does the name Ahmaud Arbery sound familiar to you? He was the Georgia jogger hunted down and murdered by three men claiming SYG. They were later arrested but Ahmaud was still DEAD!

Breonna Taylor's boyfriend used his gun appropriately in his home when police used a no-knock warrant @ 1 AM and HE was initially arrested after police shot and killed Breonna. Can't you see how Blacks are harmed by SYG?

If you cannot support bills that are beneficial to ALL community members those bills have no business being proposed.

Vote "NO" on HB 381 Stand Your Ground

Sincerely,

Jill Bowman