Dear Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee,

I'm submitting this testimony in favor of Senate Bill 237 by Senator Terry Johnson because self-defense is a human right, and SB237 would recognize that.

**In 1982 my wife and I were attacked by a deranged man with a knife in the lobby of our neighborhood movie theater.  We retreated but he followed us and I was stabbed fourteen times and my wife received what would have been a fatal wound had I not been a physician.  Had we stood our ground he may not have attacked us as others that did avoided being injured. The Deputy Sheriff that ultimately responded told me that there was only one way to have stopped this man. As there no concealed carry permits at that time, my target firearm was not with me.  Think of these things when you consider preventing citizens from defending themselves in situations like ours.**

For far too long, Ohio law has by default sided with the criminal over the law-abiding, and SB237 would change that.  
  
From removing a lawful citizen's requirement to retreat from an attacker, to the establishment of pretrial hearings, to the codifying of deescalation tools for violent situations, every part of this bill is common sense.   
  
The fact is, Stand-Your-Ground law does NOT increase violent crime or empower people to kill others with impunity, as the entire concept of SB237 and self-defense is based on the common-law principle of the "reasonable man."   
  
Contrary to what opponents will say, this bill does not make it harder for law-enforcement or prosecutors to do their jobs because investigation and conviction standards are not changed in this bill!

As a lawful citizen of this great state, I urge this committee to vote YES on SB237 and pass it out of committee with no weakening amendments or changes.