Government Oversight and Reform Committee Committee
Witness Testimony - Opponent - SB 383
"Stand Your Ground", the Ohio Duty to Retreat Act
Submitted by Malinda Smyth
December 9th, 2020

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the
committee, thank you for allowing me,
a private citizen, to submit this testimony in opposition to SB 383.

Various polls and studies have shown that preventing gun violence is
overwhelmingly supported by Ohioans. It means making gun ownership and gun
use more responsible. It is not about taking away citizens' guns.

SB 383, the "Stand Your Ground" bill will not make Ohioans safer from gun violence.
On the contrary, in every state where "Stand Your Ground" legislation has been
enacted, homicides with the use of a firearm have increased significantly. For these
statistics, see the exhaustive data compiled by Everytown For Gun Safety. In
particular, look at the data on what has happened in Florida since they passed a "No
Duty to Retreat" law in 2005. There has been a 32% increase in firearm homicide
rates. The Rand Corporation also found, in their "Gun Policy in America" research,
that, unquestionably, "Stand Your Ground" laws are associated with increased
homicide rates.

None of the NRA's arguments in favor of "No Duty to Retreat" laws are supported by
any evidence that "No Duty to Retreat" will deter crime or make us safer. They can't,
because all the data on the enactment of this type of legislation demonstrates the
opposite. We will not be safer. Homicide rates with the use of a firearm will increase,
as has happened in every state that has passed a "Stand Your Ground" bill.

Ohioans depend upon you, our legislators, to act according to our best interests. SB
383 is not going to keep us safer from gun violence. It will only help a criminal using
a firearm to commit a crime avoid responsibility. Consider what has happened in
other states that have enacted "No Duty to Retreat". Please oppose this legislation,
and "Stand Your Ground" for the people of Ohio.