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I strongly oppose this bill and ask this committee to oppose it as well.

As a parent, I tell my son to back away from conflict. Adults should also avoid conflict, and in particular avoid anything that could result in the death of another person, whenever possible. This bill would give someone outside of their home the right to use deadly force and as a result, hide behind the excuse of self-defense. There are already protections under current law. This bill is not only unnecessary, but will be harmful. If enacted, this bill will also unnecessarily harm people of color, as well as people with mental health and developmental or intellectual disabilities.

It is hard enough for well-trained police officers to determine when to use potentially deadly force. We should not encourage civilians to use deadly force in the name of self-protection when they can retreat, especially when we have seen time and again that these stand your ground bills result in more violence and needless deaths.