

4/26/21

Please accept this written testimony in opposition of LD 1138. Studies have shown Stand Your Ground laws are dangerous. These laws encourage a “shoot first, ask later” culture. Such laws allow for the use of deadly force when the person could have safely and easily walked away from a situation or threat and make it possible for someone to provoke a fight, kill the person, and defend their actions stating they felt, “threatened.”

These laws are not equally applied based on the race of the defendant, further exasperating racial inequalities.

Given the frequency of officer involved shootings/homicides against black and brown adults and children, efforts to minimize homicides and gun violence should be the goal. This LD does not support that goal. Please DO NOT pass LD1138.

Respectfully,
Jessica Yeaton
Sabattus

<https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/analysis/stand-your-ground/violent-crime.html>

<https://efsgv.org/learn/policies/stand-your-ground-laws/>