

February 15, 2021

Representatives of the House Judiciary committee:

My name is Catherine Lee and I live on a farm outside Davenport, ND. Thank you for the opportunity to offer my input.

I ask you to please give a do NOT pass recommendation to HB 1498.

This bill would put children, families, and communities at risk by making North Dakota A "Stand Your Ground" state. Stand Your Ground laws upend traditional self-defense principles and encourage armed vigilantism. Lawmakers should put the safety of their constituents first and reject HB 1498.

Despite the assertions of Stand Your Ground supporters, there are no studies that associate Broadening self-defense laws with deterring crime. In fact, Florida's Stand Your Ground law is associated with a 45% increase in firearm homicide rate among white residents and a 23% increase among black residents, per DK Humphreys, A. Gasparini, and DJ Wiebe in *Evaluating the Impact of Florida's "Stand Your Ground Self-Defense Law on Homicide & Suicide by Firearm*.

Please, keep North Dakotans safe by giving a do NOT pass recommendation to HB 1498.

Catherine Lee