



## MINNESOTA S 292 / H 238: STAND YOUR GROUND

- ❑ **Bottom Line:** S 292 and H 238 would put children, families, and communities at risk by making Minnesota only the second new Stand Your Ground state since 2011. Stand Your Ground laws upend traditional self-defense laws, encouraging armed vigilantism and giving civilians in public places more leeway to shoot than the U.S. military gives soldiers in war zones. These laws do not deter crime and have a disproportionate effect on communities of color. Lawmakers should put the safety of their constituents first and reject Stand Your Ground in Minnesota.
- ❑ **S 292 and H 238 would upend traditional self-defense law in Minnesota and allow a person to shoot to kill in public, even when there is a clear and safe alternative.**
  - Under current Minnesota law, a person can use force, including deadly force, to defend himself anywhere. But when in public, a person cannot use force likely to kill or seriously injure someone if there is a safe way to avoid the danger.
  - S 292 and H 238 would upend traditional self-defense law in Minnesota and allow a person to shoot to kill in public, **even when there is a clear and safe alternative.**
  - S 292 and H 238 would give everyday citizens more leeway to shoot than the United States military gives soldiers in war zones.<sup>1</sup>
- ❑ **States that pass Stand Your Ground laws see increases in homicide rates.**
  - A 2012 study by researchers at Texas A&M found that in 21 states Stand Your Ground laws are associated with a clear increase in homicides, resulting in **600 more homicides per year.**<sup>2</sup>
  - In Florida, the Stand Your Ground law was linked to a **32 percent increase in firearm homicides.**<sup>3</sup> At the same time, homicides considered justifiable **tripled.**<sup>4</sup>
  - In 2013 the *Tampa Bay Times* found that at least **26 children and teens** have been killed in Florida Stand Your Ground cases since 2005.<sup>5</sup>
- ❑ **Stand Your Ground laws have a disproportionate effect on communities of color.**
  - When white shooters kill black victims, the resulting homicides are deemed justifiable **11 times more frequently** than when the shooter is black and the victim is white.<sup>6</sup>
  - Controlling for other factors—such as who initiated the confrontation and whether or not the victim was armed—Florida **SYG cases with minority victims are half as likely to lead to conviction**, compared to cases with white victims.<sup>7</sup>
- ❑ **Stand Your Ground laws do not deter crime.**
  - Despite the assertions of Stand Your Ground supporters, the Texas A&M researchers found no evidence that Stand Your Ground laws deter crime.<sup>8</sup>
- ❑ **Now that the evidence is in, states are listening.**
  - **Only one new state has passed a Stand Your Ground law since 2011.** In 2012, the year of Trayvon Martin's killing, which served as a national wake-up call about the dangers of Stand Your Ground legislation, there were seven bills pending that would have created seven new Stand Your Ground states.<sup>10</sup> But not one of those bills passed. Only one new state—Missouri—has become a Stand Your Ground state in the years since.



- **States with Stand Your Ground statutes are now taking action to repeal or reform these dangerous laws.** Many states have introduced legislation to repeal or reform their Stand Your Ground statutes.<sup>11</sup> One of these reform bills passed in Louisiana.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Soltz, J. (2012, April 10). George Zimmerman Had More Legal Authority to Kill Than Our Troops Do at War. *Think Progress*. Retrieved from <http://bit.ly/2axdoI9>.

<sup>2</sup> Cheng, C., & Hoekstra, M. (2012). *Does strengthening self-defense law deter crime or escalate violence? Evidence from Castle Doctrine*. Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research. Retrieved from <http://bit.ly/2awzR9J>.

<sup>3</sup> Humphreys, D., Gasparrini, A., Wiebe, D. (2016). Evaluating the Impact of Florida's "Stand Your Ground" Self-defense Law on Homicide and Suicide by Firearm: An Interrupted Time Series Study. *JAMA Internal Medicine*. Published online November 14, 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Fisher, M., & Eggen, D. (2012, April 7). 'Stand your ground' laws coincide with jump in justifiable-homicide cases. *Washington Post*. Retrieved from <http://wapo.st/2fZbeSM>.

<sup>5</sup> Cameron, D., & Higgins, W. M. (2014). Stand your ground law: Fatal Cases. *Tampa Bay Times*. Retrieved August 3, 2016, from <http://bit.ly/1c9o33x>.

<sup>6</sup> Roman, J. (2013). Race, Justifiable Homicide, and Stand Your Ground Laws: Analysis of FBI Supplementary Homicide Report Data. *Urban Institute*. Retrieved from <http://urban.is/2gGvGvM>.

<sup>7</sup> Ackermann, N., Goodman, M. S., Gilbert, K., Arroyo-Johnson, C., & Pagano, M. (2015). Race, law, and health: Examination of 'stand your ground' and defendant convictions in Florida. *Social Science & Medicine*, 142, 194–201.

<sup>8</sup> Cheng, C., & Hoekstra, M. (2012). *Does Strengthening Self-Defense Law Deter Crime or Escalate Violence? Evidence from Castle Doctrine*. Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research. Retrieved from <http://bit.ly/2awzR9J>.

<sup>10</sup> Iowa: HF 2215; Massachusetts: SB 661; Minnesota: HF 1467; Nebraska: LB 298; New Jersey: A 886; New York: S 281; Washington: SB 5418.

<sup>11</sup> E.g. Alabama: 2012 HB 694, 2013 HB 212; Arizona: 2014 HB 2518, HB 1437; Florida: 2013 HB 123, HB 331, HB 4009, HB 799; Georgia: 2012 HB 1308; Indiana: 2014 SB 46; Louisiana: 2012 SB 738, HB 1100, SB 719; Michigan: 2012 HB 5644; Mississippi: 2013 HB 1040; New Hampshire: 2013 HB 135; North Carolina: 2012 HB 1192; Pennsylvania: 2012 HB 2559, 2013 HB 518; South Carolina: 2012 H 5072; Texas: 2013 HB 3773, SB 1349.

<sup>12</sup> 2012 La. SB 738.