

Stephanie Hanson

SB 1313 Testimony

Mr. Chair, members of the committee, my name is Stephanie Hanson.

I have 3 children. The youngest, my 11 year old daughter Josie, was adopted from Ethiopia. When I heard of the stand your ground bill, I thought to myself "Thank God she's not a boy."

"Stand Your Ground" laws disproportionately impact people of color, who, because of deep-seated implicit biases, are more likely to be considered "threatening." In fact, studies show that white on black homicides are 11 times more likely to be deemed justifiable.

With a law that allows people to take the law into their own hands if they are feeling threatened, I fear the disproportionate impact this will have on the lives of black teenagers, primarily black boys, who people in our community may feel threatened by because of deeply ingrained stereotypes. Thank God I adopted a girl.

Josie's middle name, the name given to my daughter by her birth-mom before she passed away is Bedilua, which in her native tongue of Amharic means "As Her Luck." I testify before you today in hopes that Josie and other children born into this world with non-white skin tones do not have to rely on luck but rather can rely on the wisdom of this body to vote against a law which does not protect all children, and people, equally.

Along with all the other members of Idaho's Chapter of Moms Demand Action, I ask you to vote NO on SB1313.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Hanson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed text "Thank you."