**Florida Atlantic University**

**Student Government**

**Boca Raton House of Representatives**

**6th Legislative Session**

**BRHR-12-08**

"Repeal Stand Your Ground"

**Author** Matthew Schlissel

**Sponsor**: Boris Bastidas

**WHEREAS**: The recent murder of Florida teen, Trayvon Martin, has brought state and national attention to Florida's "stand your ground" law, FL 776.013, also known as the "shoot first" law, allowing for the use of deadly force when a person is in a place he has a right to be and feels threatened, and;

**WHEREAS**: The law clearly states that people have no duty to attempt to retreat from a threat of violence even if they could do so safely, and;

**WHEREAS**: The law also includes a provision that grants "immunity" from prosecution or civil suit if a person is deemed to have acted in self-defense, and;

**WHEREAS**: Trayvon Martin is only the most recent victim of a law that allows someone to take it upon themselves to use unnecessary and deadly force without any legal consequences, and;

**WHEREAS**: The law allows for Trayvon Martin's killer, George Zimmerman, to currently walk around as a free man, never having to face arrest or criminal charges, and;

**WHEREAS**: The law also makes it more difficult for prosecutors to charge someone, such as Zimmerman, with murder, and;

**WHEREAS**: Thousands of people, including celebrities, have rallied to protest the injustice caused by the "stand your ground" law, and;

**WHEREAS**: The law takes the "Castle Doctrine"--the concept that a man's home is his castle and that he owes no duty to retreat when someone breaks in--and expands it to the point of a person's surroundings in any environment, and;

**WHEREAS**: The "stand your ground" law has been used to absolve violence resulting from road rage, bar-room arguments and even a gang gunfight, and;

CODING: Words **striken** are deletions; words *underlined* are additions.
WHEREAS: Since the law went into effect, reports of justifiable homicides have tripled, according to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and;

WHEREAS: Several State Senators are calling for legislative hearings to deliberate the "stand your ground" law, and;

WHEREAS: The Florida Atlantic University Student Government on its own behalf and in conjunction with Florida Student Association can appeal to State Legislators in Tallahassee to support or oppose laws that come on the agenda of the Florida Legislature, and;

WHEREAS: The Florida Atlantic University Student Government, and other University Student Governments across the state, have previously passed resolutions in support of or opposition to laws being enacted by Florida Legislature, NOW;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Boca Raton House of Representatives stand in opposition to Florida's "stand your ground" law, urging State Legislatures to repeal FL 776.013, and;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That upon the enactment of this resolution, a copy be sent to the Florida Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the Florida Attorney General, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, the President of the Florida Senate, and to State Representatives and State Senators whose districts border or include FAU Campuses.

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LEGISLATIVE SIGNATURE SHEET
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

This Bill / Resolution # BRHR-12-08 PASSED / FAILED on this 29th day of June, 2012 by a vote of 13 YES, 4 NO, 0 ABSTAIN moved by Wimberly and seconded by Fleming.
Signature – House Speaker / President of the Senate:

For House Bills or Resolutions ONLY:

This Bill / Resolution is hereby ENACTED / VETOED on this 3rd day of July 2012. Signature – Campus Governor:

For All Legislation:

This Bill / Resolution is hereby ENACTED / VETOED on this 3rd day of July 2012. Signature – Student Body President

For All Legislation, Pursuant to University Regulation 4.006:

This Bill / Resolution is APPROVED / SENT BACK FOR RECONSIDERATION on this 9th day of September, 2012. Signature – Vice President for Student Affairs

For All Legislation:

This Bill / Resolution is Received and Recorded by the Student Government Student Court on this 6th day of September, 2012.