

My name is Tara Talgar. I'm a volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. I am a mother to 2 preschool age children who will attend kindergarten in the Fall. In short, this committee should vote NO on HB 233 because it dismisses the concerns of your Ohio constituents and it tramples on private property rights.

Being here today, reminds me of last winter, when I testified at a senate hearing against HB 48 (later changed to SB 199 ) on the daycare provision of the bill. I was later appalled that in a rush of the lame duck session, it passed without considering the safety of Ohio residents or the people directly affected by the bill.

To give you some context for what I am talking about, after SB 199 passed, the Ohio Moms Demand Action chapter called over 1,800 licensed daycare facilities all around Ohio. We wanted to educate them about the new law and ask them if they were going to continue to post signs to prohibit guns in their facilities. The results of these conversations were staggering. Of those we could reach and that this law applied to, 95% (over 1,300 facilities) of them said they were keeping their signs up and going to continue to prohibit firearms in their daycares. The large majority were shocked by the bill's passage and that the legislature thought that guns in a chaotic setting of a preschool was a good idea. This was not something they were asking for.

Once again, the Ohio Legislature is considering a bill that would allow guns in sensitive places. This time, it is in places like K-12 schools and college campuses. These locations are not asking for guns in their facilities. They know, like the daycare administrators we talked to, that guns in more places do not make for a safer environment. In fact the broader argument that more guns everywhere results in less crime has been debunked by research, most recently by Stanford researchers this month. This bill only satisfies the desires of the gun lobby and a small minority of gun owners.

To make matters worse, HB 233 is a radical departure from even typical so called "Guns Everywhere" bills because of the way it tramples on private property rights. If this unprecedented bill passes, signs posted by private property owners (including daycare facilities) to prohibit guns in their facilities would no longer have the same legal effect as they do now. The way this bill is written, a person can carry a concealed handgun onto private property - even property marked with a "no guns allowed" sign - unless and until the property owner asks the person to leave. This puts private property owners, their guests, employees, and customers in difficult situations with the potential for conflict.

In closing, it is apparent that this committee would like to push this bill through without proper consideration for its unintended consequences for private property owner rights. There are too many issues that need more time and consideration to vote this through. Please vote NO on HB 233.