



**State Representative Thomas E. West
Sponsor Testimony (As Prepared) – House Bill 563**

West

Good Morning Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Becker, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony this morning on House Bill 563, legislation that prohibits transferring firearms to a person for 30 days while their background check is pending.

This bill came to light when I became aware of one of the many issues with the execution of our national background check system – the normal process says that if gun dealers do not hear back from the FBI with a flat denial in three business days, they are free to sell the weapon to the person who filled out the paperwork to buy the gun. That is how, Dylan Roof the man that killed nine people in a Charleston church, was able to acquire a gun.

In addition to this senseless tragedy, thousands of students, moms, and families have asked us to put in place commonsense gun safety laws in the wake of mass shootings and other incidents of gun violence across our state and our nation. We want safe streets and neighborhoods, we want our children to go to school without fearing that one day they may have to hide in a storage closet because there is an active shooter on their campus. Ohioans just want to be able to live their lives with a sense of safety and security.

This bill would help with that. It does not take away gun rights. It simply requires a 30 day waiting period to do a background check with the national instant criminal background check system before someone can purchase a gun. We need to listen to concerned constituents all across the state and put into place commonsense gun safety laws such as this to make our communities and families safer. The more we can do to keep guns out of the hands of people that shouldn't have them, the more we are able to protect our communities from tragedies such as the one that occurred in Charleston.

