



**State Representative Bill Patmon
Sponsor Testimony
House Bill 33
November 14, 2018**

Good Morning Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee.

It is an honor to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 33, which will prohibit any person from storing or leaving a firearm in their residence unless the firearm is secured in safe storage or by a tamper-resistant lock. Such responsibility is required to be taken upon knowledge or reasonable knowledge that a minor is able to gain access to the firearm.

According to the Children's Defense Fund, between years 2013 - 2015, 7,768 children and teens in America died from gun violenceⁱ. In fact, it was noted by the Children's Defense Fund that 121 children aged eighteen and younger died from firearms in Ohio in 2015.

In April 2018, a study published by the American Journal of Public Health found that 54% of its participants reported not storing their gun safelyⁱⁱ. Currently, just over half of all states have passed a Child Access Prevention (CAP) or safe storage law, with House Bill 33 making Ohio the 28th state to introduce such legislation.

According to a recent issue brief from the Children's Defense Fund, it was noted that the most effective state CAP laws prohibit negligent gun storage by requiring firearms to be locked whenever a firearm is not in the owner's immediate control and they have reasonable knowledge that a child may gain access to a firearm. The same Children Defense Fund publication highlighted the importance of CAP laws stating "CAP laws work because they provide notice to gun owners that they will be held criminally liable if they do not properly store and lock their guns."

I am sure there are many concerns that arise regarding this legislation, its constitutionality and the potential infringement of an individual's second amendment rights. I assure those in the room who are concerned, I do not care to take away one's firearms. I simply aim to introduce a

common sense law where an individual accepts responsibility for the underage usage, accidental or otherwise, of a firearm.

Again, Chairman Blessing and all members of the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee I thank you for your time and am more than happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this legislation.

ⁱ 2017 The State of America's Children Fact Sheet, Children Defense Fund.

ⁱⁱ [8] Cassandra K. Crifasi, Mitchell L. Doucette, Emma E. McGinty, Daniel W. Webster, Colleen L. Barry. (2018). Storage Practices of US Gun Owners in 2016, American Journal of Public Health 108, no. 4: pp. 532-537. DOI: 10.2105/AJPH.2017.304262