

Dr. Anita Somani's Testimony

June 5, 2019

I would like to voice my opposition to house Bill 178. I am an ObGyn who has been practicing in Columbus, Ohio for 26 years. I care for women through out their lives and see women who have been traumatized by gun violence whether through the loss of a child, a sibling or a parent or spouse. That type of experience leads to psychological affects.

This bill will increase the risk of women being shot in domestic violence cases as well as others being hurt. As physicians know guns in the home increase the risk of injury and death to kids whether accidentally or intentionally.

There is considerable data that loosening restrictions of conceal carry laws leads to more homicides. In the most comprehensive systematic review of firearm laws in the United States to date, Lee and colleagues (JAMA Internal Med, 2017; 177(1):106-119) found that lessening conceal carry restrictions led to increased firearm homicides on city and state levels.

Guns like cars should require a license and training for safe use. Please vote in favor of facts and science and keep Ohio safe.

Please oppose HB178.