

**Testimony on House Bill 178**  
**House Federalism Committee**  
**Representative John Becker, Chair**  
**Representative Reggie Stoltzfus, Vice Chair**  
**Representative Adam C Miller, Ranking Member**  
**Submitted by Emily Chesnut (Cincinnati)**

June 19, 2019

Representative Becker and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to present testimony in opposition to House Bill 178. My name is Emily Chesnut and I am constituent of Ohio HD65, Mr. Becker's district. I am here as a mom to four school age children who cares deeply about the safety of our schools and community.

In May 1988 I was a 5th grader in the Chicago suburbs when Laurie Dann walked into a local elementary school and killed a schoolboy, the first school shooting that was national news. As a schoolgirl myself, I remember the fear in the community as they searched for her after she left the school and over 30 years later in Ohio my children practice lockdown drills like we practiced tornado drills. As parents it is our job to make our schools and community safer for our children.

House Bill 178 would allow for individuals who are not trained and may have never even held or shot a gun to carry a concealed weapon in public settings such as restaurants, movie theaters and school safety zones, where families like my own regularly gather and spend time. This proposed bill makes the community less safe by having more people carry concealed weapons without any sort of training or license.

Please listen to myself and the variety of parents, teachers, doctors, and police officers who have testified their opposition to this bill and make Ohio safe by keeping in place the current license requirements for concealed carry weapons.

Thank you for your opposition of House Bill 178.