

Written 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 Jill Bisping (Columbus)

Representative Becker and members of the Federalism Committee,  
Thank you so much for taking the time to read my written testimony in opposition to HB 178. I am a constituent from Columbus, OH, a mom to two young boys, and a former grade school and preschool teacher.

I am concerned about this bill for many reasons. Currently in Ohio, gun owners are already able to carry a firearm with a permit and required training time. If this bill were to be enacted into law, no training would be necessary to purchase and carry a gun, convicted criminals would be legally allowed to carry concealed weapons, and teenagers would be allowed to purchase and carry concealed weapons. Police officers, doctors, prosecutors, teachers, and city governments all oppose this bill. As recently as today, the Columbus Dispatch called this bill "extreme" (Columbus Dispatch editorial, "For state lawmakers, no demand of the gun crowd is too absurd," June 24, 2019). More importantly, the majority of your Ohio constituents are not in favor of this bill, or of any legislation that lowers the bar for the purchase and use of dangerous weapons.

With each new gun tragedy, Ohio's citizens are hopeful that you, the legislators that we sent to the state capital, will be brave, stand with the majority of voters, and stand up to the gun lobby.

As state legislators and members of this committee, you now have an opportunity to do just that. YOU can listen to experts from across many fields, listen to your voters, and act to move Ohio towards a better future by NOT passing HB 178 out of committee.

Thank you.

Jill Bisping