

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO

Testimony in Support of SB 221

Responding to Gun Violence

December 3, 2019

Chairperson Coley, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Minority Member Craig and members of the Government Oversight Committee, my name is Jim Tobin. I am an associate director with the Catholic Conference of Ohio. We represent the Catholic Bishops of Ohio regarding public policy matters. The Conference encourages your support for SB 221.

SB 221 will help rein in private gun sales to the wrong people. It strengthens the reporting requirements to the LEADS and NCIC databases. Importantly, SB 221 expands existing “pink slip” mental health interventions and treatments to persons suffering from alcohol or other drug abuse. We believe these prudent actions will help save lives.

In a recent statement, the Catholic Bishops of Ohio urged Ohio’s elected leaders to adopt prudent policies to help curb gun violence. They exhorted that “now is the time for action. Now is the time to promote the culture of life.”

The Bishops stated: “We urge open and civil discourse that will result in the enactment of bipartisan reforms. We pray that Ohio’s leaders will set aside political agendas and achieve solutions that promote the common good and safety of all people. We believe just solutions can be found that will not violate the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution”.

We urge your support for SB 221.