



Ohio Chapter

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Testimony in Support HB 585

Dr. Sara Bode

Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

5/16/18

Chairwoman Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on HB 585 .The Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (Ohio AAP) and its 2,900 members strongly support 585 pertaining to gun violence.

The Ohio AAP firmly believes this type of legislation is not about debating gun ownership, but rather taking a first step in prioritizing efforts around tightening laws around background checks and domestic violence to keep kids and their families safe around firearms.

The Ohio AAP has worked with pediatricians and firearm advocates to create the Store It Safe Campaign, which through physicians promotes keeping firearms stored safely away from children. The Store it Safe program as it expands, along with legislation such as this, is greatly needed in the state of Ohio to allow children to grow and thrive in safe environments.

The Ohio AAP stands in support of these bills due to the sensible solutions offered to help keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals. Additionally, it is vital that the state do everything possible to ensure information is fully and accurately transmitted to NICS and other databases, while at the same time this is not taking away an individual's constitutional right to possess a firearm.

In my line of work as a pediatrician in the emergency department, I have all too often seen patients and families impacted by firearms, and legislation like this is a starting point to protect children.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity today to speak in support of this bill.