

Gun control

I am writing you as a mother, grandmother, retired psychologist and university professor.

I oppose HB 796

I have lived and voted in Ohio for more than 50 years.

I am opposed to this bill for many reasons but I will share only a few objections.

This bill will make us less safe.

As a psychologist I know research shows that many 18 year olds have not developed the mature judgement to handle the responsibility to have carte blanche access to concealed weapons. As a university professor at a public university I would be unable to teach in a classroom where a student could be carrying a concealed weapon. There is no place for this in an academic setting where the students are learning to be adults and learning to handle liquor. I am thinking especially of fraternity hazing but there can be disputes about new ideas and classroom performance. This will lead to more not less gun violence. Young people today are committing suicide more often and having access to a lethal weapon makes for more tragedy.

I do not find that a school board is in anyway qualified to evaluate who should be allowed to carry a weapon on school property. At a minimum a background check should be the first step and required. The degree of training and continued renewal of the skills to safely have a weapon in the classroom prevents teachers from focusing on their job which is to provide a nurturing environment for learning.

Finally I have been affected by at least 5 situations in the past 5 years involving murder. Never before in my 75 years have I known personally anyone affected by gun violence. One incident involved a robbery. A second I knew both the perpetrators and the victim and it was over a dispute. The third was a family member of a mass murderer. There is such heartache for these and all incidents involving gun violence.

As I collected signatures advocating for universal background checks on guns last year I found almost everyone supporting it and signing. This is what the citizens want.

This bill makes us less safe.

Vote against HB 796