

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: June 23, 2019

Name: Cynthia A. Molloy, M.D., M.S.

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization

Organization (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes

No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 178

Specific Issue: Modifies weapons law; permit concealed carry without license.

Are you testifying as a: Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? written only

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

June 23, 2019

The Honorable John Becker  
Chairperson, Federalism Committee  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, OH 43215

**Re: Opposition to HB 178**

Dear Representative Becker and Members of the Committee,

I am a retired epidemiologist and current resident of Cincinnati. My husband and I were both born and raised in southwest Ohio. We have lived many places, but chose to return to Ohio at the end of his military career because this is home. I care very much about what goes on in our state and have followed these hearings with great interest. My background in epidemiology and the application of rigorous scientific methods to public health issues is what motivated me to submit testimony today. Thank you for this opportunity.

I want to remind the committee of recent, methodologically rigorous, work that provides a compelling reason to oppose this bill. In their testimony of April 10, the sponsors of the bill cite the 2015 Annual Report from the Crime Prevention Research Center to argue that, "...states with Constitutional Carry laws have lower crime rates than states with mandated license systems." They go on to point out that laws such as this one allowing citizens to carry concealed weapons without permits have been enacted in "more and more states." My point is this: **The more recent analysis of this increased accumulated data provides compelling evidence that the opposite is true. States that have permitless carry laws have higher rates of violent crime.**

At this time there is a paucity of good research regarding gun violence because public funding for such studies has been restricted. That means that nearly all studies that are currently published are agenda-driven rather than being more objective and hypothesis-driven. It is not surprising that the report cited by the sponsors, from a Center founded by John Lott, author of "More Guns, Less Crime" supports his confirmation bias. The recent work out of Stanford might also be regarded as agenda driven. However, the methodology that Donohue et al used for this October, 2018 report is based on the analysis of panel data that was developed by the National Academies' National Research Council in their 2004 report. The application of this sound methodology to the larger dataset of "more and more states" is what makes this analysis more robust and worthy of your consideration.

These results, that **states that enacted right-to-carry laws have experienced a 13% to 15% increase in violent crime in the 10 years after enacting them**, were first presented to the Federalism Committee in testimony by Matthew Youkilis on June 5. I am writing today to underscore his testimony with my professional opinion that this analysis of all available data should be taken very seriously and should certainly give you reason to pause.

The causes and potential solutions for gun violence in our state are myriad and complex. It will take concerted effort by all sides to understand it and enact measures to prevent it. That is why I implore you, please do not ignore these findings. Do not put Ohio on the path to even more gun violence.

I am asking that you vote no on HB 178. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Cynthia A. Molloy, MD, MS  
Cincinnati, OH