



## Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence

Government Oversight Committee

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Minority Member Craig and Committee Members

September 18, 2020

Thank you for receiving our testimony in opposition to SB360.

This is an area that already seems to be taken care of through federal and state law. We assume that the uncertainty of the open for business during the Covid closings caused the concern about firearm dealers.

Even though that may be something important to some Ohioans we believe most were much more concerned about doing what the Governor and Health professionals advised in order to keep our families safe and well.

It is totally lacking in compassion to put buying guns in the same category as health treatment and yet most doctors were not seeing patients and only performing “necessary” surgeries during the requested Stay at Home advisories. During that time, I was in need of surgery but it was not classified as an emergency so I waited six painful months until I could have the needed surgery. For Ohio laws to say that buying a gun is more essential than getting a hip replaced is an embarrassment for all of us.

This is also another state preemption of local communities knowing what is best for their citizens.

Currently the legislature wants to be able to preempt the Governor during a crisis, make FFLs essential, allow people to carry without a license, declare Ohio a gun sanctuary state, give people the right to use lethal force without even considering a safe alternative, and allow school staff to be armed with questionable and secret qualifications and training to be determined locally. It seems that guns in schools is the only place the state does not want to preempt local decisions on guns.

We find these disturbing, unhealthy and fear driven attempts to control us all are dangerous in this time of mistrust, violence and racism.

Many safety bills have been introduced that the legislature has not even considered.

We sincerely hope you will trust that gun dealers would only have to close if we are in an emergency situation that doing so would make the rest of us safer. It is acceptable and advisable to allow the state and local communities to make these decisions. Please don't encourage fear.

Toby Hoover  
Founder  
Survivor