



WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

OPPONENT TESTIMONY

HB 243

October 14, 2021

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Government and Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to write in opposition of HB 243.

HB 243 preempts municipal authority over the regulation of knives by prohibiting local governments from regulating or taxing knives and knife components. The bill would ultimately repeal all local ordinances or resolutions regulating the knives within the jurisdiction of a city or village and prohibits a municipality from regulating or taxing the manufacturing of knives more restrictively than other manufacturing regulations. This legislation prevents a municipality from enacting a local ordinance that reflect the will and values of that local community.

It is our deep concern that HB 243 would continue the steady erosion of local control for communities across the state. The Ohio Constitution grants Home Rule authority to municipalities in recognition that a government closest to the people governs best, and each city and village should be able to serve and protect the interests of their communities.

Thank you for your consideration, and we urge for your opposition to this bill.

Sincerely,

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League