

House Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony HB325
Submitted by: Michelle Lee Heym

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to testify on HB325.

My name is Michelle Heym, and I am a Powell, Ohio resident and voter. I don't understand why you are trying to pass a bill that would keep Ohio gun stores open during a pandemic when last year, during the countries biggest pandemic in over 100 years, Ohio gun stores did stay opened. There are so many vital gun safety laws that need our attention, and especially in light of the recent Michigan school shooting, why not introduce legislature that Ohioans want and need like safe storage laws, laws to keep dangerous people off the streets like "Extreme Risk Protection Orders," mandatory and thorough background checks for every gun purchase or transfer, including gun shows, where they do not always follow the law and do a background check. Everybody knows there are loopholes, where the bad guy that should never get a gun, gets a gun. 775 Ohioans were killed due to gun violence this year, and that was a statistic a week ago. I oppose this bill and gun safety legislation matters to me especially because I was living in Connecticut in 2012 during the Sandy Hook Massacre, and I will never be the same. My kids were in lockdown at the time at a school an hour and a half away. I am terrified living in Ohio with such lax gun safety laws, every single day my kids go to school. This very personal and horrible experience has led me to provide testimony today and remind legislators to design legislation that will keep Ohioans safe. Research proves more guns are not the answer. You must be laser focused on listening to the needs and safety of Ohioans. HB 325 is not the answer.

Sincerely, Michelle Lee Heym