

Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony HB 325
Ken Krummrich

To the Chairman and Committee,

I am a lifelong Republican, father of 2, business executive (recently retired from Timken Corporation) and 23 year resident of Stark County, Ohio. I oppose HB 325 because it is an entirely unnecessary bill and just adds to the growing pile of pro-gun laws in Ohio. When I was in business, I could not afford to waste time and energy solving problems that did NOT exist. Ohio's gun shops did not shut down during the COVID pandemic of 2021. So why are you spending time addressing this non-problem. It seems that you are just posturing for the gun lobby. You continue to push for pro-gun laws and the result? Ohio's gun death rate continues to grow at a rate far faster than the national average.

Gun violence is bad for small business. This is NOT the time to introduce more fear into our customers lives...the fear of being caught in a "shoot out" or accidental shooting discourages customers from going shopping, eating out or going to entertainment venues. During my retirement, I have been mentoring small business owners and entrepreneurs through a national non-profit organization. Banks consider businesses that are in high crime areas a bad risk and it is harder for those businesses to get loans. Ohio's gun violence rate increased 34% from 2010 to 2019 compared to the national average of 17%. Research by the Rand Corp and Boston University School of Public Health found that states that have looser gun laws have a 15% higher rate of gun deaths. To assist our small business owners, you should help our state enforce its common sense gun laws, like permits, background checks and firearm safety training, not turn our state into a lawless gun zone. Please spend your time and energies providing for the safety of Ohioans with well thought through gun safety legislation, not more pro-gun bills. Vote No on HB 325.

Very seriously and sincerely,

Ken Krummrich