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Diane V. Grendell, State Representative
Ohio's 76th House District

House Bill 62 – Sponsor Testimony

April 14, 2021

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee,

I appreciate the members of this committee hearing joint sponsor testimony on House Bill 62, legislation declaring that Ohio reaffirm its commitment to upholding the 2nd Amendment of the United States. I am joined here today with joint sponsor Representative Mike Loychik, who will also be speaking today.

All of us as Representatives of the good people of Ohio swore an oath to uphold and protect the Constitution of the United States of America. This gesture is not merely symbolic, it encompasses the very fabric of what it means to truly represent the citizens of our great state and nation. Each day, we should strive to reaffirm this obligation.

House Bill 62, the 2nd Amendment Safe Haven bill, in conjunction with the 10th Amendment and some favorable case law cited by LSC, provides a defensive shield against future overreaching federal efforts to take away constitutionally protected 2nd Amendment gun ownership rights. While no guarantee, it is still better to have a shield than having no shield when it comes to protecting fundamental constitutional rights. The Second Amendment is not difficult to understand, it is unbelievable that this bill is even required.

Our Bill of Rights expressly enumerates the first 10 Amendments that are the very basis to our individual freedoms in the United States. These inalienable rights have stood untouched for 244 years, ensuring our success as a nation 'of the people, by the people, and for the people' in the years since its inception and hopefully for years to come. Our nation has changed much throughout these 244 years, but not on these individual guaranteed rights. The right to bear arms under the 2nd Amendment is one of those guaranteed rights.

Acting through the Constitution of the United States, the people of the several states created the federal government to be their agent in the exercise of a few defined powers, while reserving for the state governments the power to legislate on matters concerning the lives, liberties, and properties of citizens in the ordinary course of affairs.

The limitation of the federal government's power is affirmed under the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which defines the total scope of federal powers as being that which has been delegated by the people of the several states to the federal government, and all powers not delegated to

the federal government in the Constitution of the United States is reserved to the states respectively or the people themselves.

If the federal government assumes powers that the people did not grant it in the Constitution of the United States, its acts are unauthoritative, void, and of no force.

Our 2nd Amendment remains unique when compared with the rest of the world. Our Founding Fathers understood that the power of government does not reside within Presidents, Senators, Congressman, or despots. It resides within every American, every Ohioan, and every soul of the citizens of our nation. To secure this conviction, our Founders determined that “a well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a Free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” The 2nd Amendment truly is a check on the power of governmental tyranny and subversion of our government’s role to serve its people. Our founders had firsthand experience with this, after all; they tore off the yoke of an oppressive government and created a nation with the foundation to disallow such oppression to occur in the future.

Today, I ask you to reaffirm your oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America, your commitment to the people of Ohio, and your role as their representative, by recognizing and declaring that Ohio is a 2nd Amendment Protective State. To reaffirm that no matter the situation, our 2nd Amendment shall not be infringed upon.

Efforts are introduced almost every day throughout this nation seeking to undermine this critical right. Such assaults on a fundamental right are unacceptable. It is time to show Ohioans that our state will remain true to this foundational right and continue the legacy that the Founding Father’s established 244 years ago.

Thank you again to the committee for your considerations on this matter. I will be pleased to answer any questions you may have on this proposed bill.

Sincerely,

Diane V. Grendell
State Representative
Ohio House District 76