

State and Local Government Committee

Opposition Testimony on HB 62

Submitted by Leslie Baird

6/7/2021

To Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to testify on this important public safety issue

My name is Leslie Baird and I am a retired school professional and a resident of Stark County, OH. I oppose HB 62. Ever since the Newtown school shooting we have been hearing from the corrupt NRA that the “only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun”. But over the last five years we have seen that this is not true. America already has more guns than citizens yet our rate of gun deaths just keeps going up! Almost 40, 000 Americans die from Gun violence every year and 1,455 of the are Ohioans. (Gifford Law Center). Ohio Gun homicides increased **34%** from 2010 to 2019, compared to a **17%** increase nationwide. This represents an increase of **430** gun deaths over this period in Ohio. (CDC, Everytown).

This bill would attempt to eliminate all current and future federal gun laws in Ohio, including background checks and permits. A recent study by Boston University found that states without permits and background checks had 15% higher gun homicide rates than states with such provisions. This is a dangerous path for Ohio!

Furthermore, this bill penalizes police for trying to do their job. The Republican party used to claim to support law and order. Lately you seem to be promoting only lawlessness. Most Ohioans, including gun owners, want common sense gun laws.

Do the right thing for Ohio! Reject HB 62.

Leslie Baird

