

Testimony on House Bill 62
House State and Local Government Committee
June 9, 2021

Submitted by:
Tony D'Ambrosio

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to House Bill 62.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony today. My name is Tony D'Ambrosio. I am currently a stay-at-home parent and have a background in Healthcare, Nursing, and Public Health. I am keenly interested in legislation that impacts public health and public safety. I am strongly opposed to HB 62.

The bill contains vague language which could be read to nullify any current or future federal gun law and language which will potentially encourage extremists to ignore common sense gun laws they personally disagree with. Further, the bill exposes local law enforcement officers to lawsuits and requires that they be fired if they help enforce federal gun laws. Why would we want to put law enforcement officers in this position?

Under the U.S. Constitution's Supremacy Clause, federal laws are "the supreme law of the land" and any state law that conflicts with federal law is null and void. The U.S. Supreme Court has uniformly rejected state laws that conflict with federal law. In 2013, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that a Montana nullification law purporting to exempt firearms made in Montana from federal gun laws was preempted and void. Why pass legislation that does not protect Ohio citizens yet opens the state to costly legal challenges? This is a waste of precious resources.

If enacted, this bill would undermine the rule of law and send the message to criminals that federal gun laws will not be enforced. Nullifying federal firearms related legislation will muddy the waters for law abiding gun owners who may expose themselves to criminal liability. The bill adopts a long discredited legal theory and provisions in the bill are likely unconstitutional.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this dangerous, potentially unconstitutional bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.