

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

Submitted by:
Douglas Calem

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.

OH HB 62 is a craven attempt to placate the nativist, anti-government elements of the Republican base. This bill will do nothing to improve safety of the citizenry. Gun rights are already enshrined in law and protected by courts. This bill is an anti-government bill seeking to weaken enforcement of Federal gun laws. The fear-based testimony of the bill's proponents make it sound as if the Federal government was an alien, invasive body coming to incarcerate innocents for owning guns. This bill is dangerous as it feeds the belief that government is *against* the people and encourages attitudes and actions that only recently just extremist anti-government militias espoused. Further, there is precedent that the nullification of federal laws does not have a legal basis as, per the constitution, federal laws are the supreme law of the land.

HB 62 would also act to constrain local law officials by penalizing them for enforcing public safety laws and preventing local authorities from accessing federal resources. At the same time, this bill encourages individuals to take the law into their own hands, resulting in violence and acts similar to the January 6 insurrection which led to the death and injury of law enforcement officers.

I thought the Republican party was the party of "law and order." This bill only serves to demonstrate that they are the party of disorder and anarchy. All in the name of "freedom."

Please reject this flawed bill.

Sincerely,

Douglas Calem