

State and Local Government Committee
Opposition testimony for HB 62
Alexandra Hubbard

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to testify.

I am writing because I strongly oppose HB 62. I am an Ohio resident and voter. I'm also a school psychologist working in K-12 public schools in Ohio.

This bill would nullify important federal gun laws like background checks at federally licensed dealers in Ohio. Allowing criminals, illegal drug users and domestic abusers to buy and carry guns in our state would increase fear, anxiety and distrust among our citizens.

As a school psychologist, I'm especially concerned about the safety and mental health of Ohio's children if this bill passes. Hardly a week goes by without us seeing news reports of children shot as innocent bystanders or by stray bullets. Just a few weeks ago, on May 5th in Columbus, a 9 year old girl was shot in the chest by an errant bullet. On Feb. 9th a child and his parents were shot in their car in East Cleveland. In Akron, on September 10th of last year, an 8 year old girl was shot while sitting in a car. Research has shown that being exposed to gun violence negatively impacts a child's cognitive development. Making it easier for prohibited people to carry guns in our communities will mean more children will be shot or will lose a parent to gun violence. A study by Boston University found that states with looser gun regulations have, on average, higher rates of gun deaths.

Do what is right for Ohio's children and their families and stop this bill from going forward.

Thank you for your attention,
Alexandra Hubbard