

Testimony on House Bill 62
House, State, and Local Government Committee

Submitted by:
Julie Womack
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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.

I am a licensed attorney and a taxpaying citizen of Ohio. In my opinion, HB 62 is unconstitutional on its face. The Supreme Court has made clear that states cannot enact laws to nullify federal legislation. The Supremacy Clause of the US Constitution controls on this issue and prohibits states from taking action like the one proposed in this bill. This legislation will undoubtedly lead to litigation and will waste taxpayer money and government resources on an unconstitutional cause. This is not responsible or fiscally proper behavior by a legislative body.

The vague language and proposals contained in this bill will also hinder law enforcement and confuse citizens. Police and prosecutors will face lawsuits and court cases if they attempt to enforce gun violations. It will also have citizens engaging in actions that could be deemed criminal -- all because of confusion on whether or not federal laws are applicable.

The role of government is not to waste resources or create confusion for its citizens. Unfortunately, that is exactly what will occur with the passage of this legislation.

I ask that you all vote no on HB 62.

Sincerely,

Julie Womack