

State and Local Government Committee

Opposition Testimony on HB 62

Submitted by William Koltek

6/7/2021

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

My name is William Koltek. I am a 33-year Ohio resident, voter and taxpayer, and I am writing in opposition to House Bill 62. I live in a rural area (Louisville, OH). The Constitution of the United States of America is a great work of justice and balance. To propose that our state disobey the laws of the Constitution is a dangerous act. In all likelihood, HB 62 would be struck down by the US Supreme Court which has repeatedly ruled that states cannot pass laws that conflict with federal laws. I am sure that the author(s) of this bill know that. This legislation must be, therefore, political theater for their pro-gun base.

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

The Republican party often claims to be the party of law and order. This bill would promote anarchy and lawlessness. Please spend your time writing serious gun safety legislation that would save some of the 1,400+ Ohioans who die each year from gun violence.

William Koltek