

State And Local Government Committee
Opposition Testimony HB 62
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Mr. Chairman and Committee members,

I am strongly opposed to HB 62. This bill is likely to increase gun deaths in Ohio. The very timing of this hearing is an affront given the sharp increase in gun deaths in Ohio since we started reopening from the pandemic. Mass shootings used to happen once every few weeks, which was bad enough. Now they are happening about one a day.

It is alarming that our Legislature seems anxious to increase gun deaths in Ohio with this legislation. Ohio saw a 42% increase in gun deaths from 2010 to 2019, compared to the average rise for other states which was 17%. Our gun homicide rate went up 27% in the first 6 months of 2020, which according to Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, was not associated with COVID. And credible research studies show that states with fewer gun restrictions have higher rates of gun deaths than states that have tighter gun laws.

HB 62 is not needed. Gun owners already have adequate protection to their 2nd amendment rights in Ohio. Please don't make it easier for the "bad guys" to get hold of guns. Becoming a "Sanctuary State" for guns is a terrible idea for Ohio.

Thank you,
Constance Rubin