

Testimony on House Bill 62

House State and Local Government Committee

June 9, 2021

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Committee Member Kelly, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to House Bill 62.

Simply put, this bill is unconstitutional. It attempts to nullify federal laws, and such attempts have been struck down by the Supreme Court before. I can't imagine why one would need more reasons to oppose this bill, but those additional reasons exist, and they are numerous.

This bill is dangerous. It would jeopardize public safety in Ohio. It would undermine the rule of law and encourage extremists to defy common sense gun laws. It puts local law enforcement and officials at risk of lawsuits simply for doing their jobs. It promotes a "shoot first, ask questions later" mentality that is proven to decrease public safety and increase murder rates, especially among Black men.

This bill is also unnecessary. The Second Amendment does not need a safe haven. The rights of responsible gun owners are not at risk. Calling for Ohio to be a "sanctuary state" only muddies the waters and causes further division and conflict. It creates an "us versus them" frame of mind that increases violence.

Keep Ohioans safe. Kill HB 62 before it becomes a law that kills Ohioans.

Thank you.