

Testimony on House Bill 62
House State and Local Government Committee
June 10, 2021
Submitted by:
Shela Blanchard

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.

As a law abiding citizen of Ohio, this extremely dangerous unconstitutional bill would undermine the rule of law in Ohio and jeopardize not only my public safety but the safety of all Ohioans.

As legislators my hope is that you thoroughly review the provisions and see this bill will not only affect everyday citizens, but also the bill will threaten local law enforcement and officials with lawsuits, fines, and the loss of employment for simply doing their job. OH HB 62 presents a real public safety risk and will foster distrust in the rule of law.

As the country continues to deal with the threat of armed extremism, this bill will only fuel anti-government sentiment and encourage violence. This is contrary to decreasing the amount of gun violence that is increasing throughout our state and nation.

Representatives help me, my family, and community members understand why State Legislators are continuing to introduce legislation that increases loss of life instead of introducing legislation that would protect and save lives. an end to the out of control gun violence across our nation.

My hope was the 134th general assembly would work in the interest of Ohioans to fight the increase in rural county Suicides, unintentional shootings (children being killed by guns not being properly stored and the out of control increase in homicide.

I am not anti-second amendment, but this bill distorts the second amendment beyond all recognition. The bill contains vague language which could be read to nullify any current or future federal gun law and language which will encourage extremists to ignore common sense firearm laws with which they personally disagree.

This extremely dangerous and unconstitutional bill will undermine the rule of law in Ohio and jeopardize public safety by encouraging armed extremists to defy federal gun laws. It is unconstitutional and the impending lawsuits that will surely follow if passed would inflict a financial burden upon our state which is fiscally irresponsible with our taxpayer dollars.

I ask that you not allow this bill to move forward from committee and make a better usage of time and dollars to end the increase in suicides, children being killed by unsecured firearms and the daily increase in homicides throughout our state.

Thank you for your time.

Shela Blanchard