



# THE COACH HALL FOUNDATION

For The Protection Of Our School Children

## Senate Bill 357 Proponent Testimony 2022

Chairman Dolan, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes, and distinguished members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony on Senate Bill 357, My name is Tim Armelli. I am a retired teacher and coach at Chardon High School. I started teaching in 1979 and retired in 2021 having taught at Chardon High School my last 24 years.

Chardon High School holds the unenviable position as the location of Ohio's worst school shooting in the state's history. On February 27, 2012, a student gunman opened fire in Chardon High School's cafeteria, at approximately 7:35 am, shooting six students. Three of the students died as a result of their wounds, and one student remains paralyzed. I had left the cafeteria just seconds before the shooting started and, moments after the shooting began, I called on the school's PA system for the school to "lock down". Coach Frank Hall, unarmed, chased the gunman from the building saving countless lives. It is a moment in time that changed my life, our students and staff's lives, and our community forever.

It is because of that horrific event that the Coach Hall Foundation, of which I am a president, will continue to assist communities to find ways to protect our school children. Senate Bill 357, we believe, will help provide Ohio's children with the protection they deserve.

A key component of SB 357 is the improved steps to providing safety from gun violence by having a shared responsibility when purchasing guns. Requiring a Co-signer and having a Seller's Protection Certificate are great additions built into the Senate Bill. Having multiple layers of safety checks enhances the chances that firearms will not be put in the hands of the wrong person.

We applaud the use of American Rescue Plan appropriations as a proactive measure in the area of mental health. Adding mental health workers and creating Mental Health Crisis Centers expands a safety net to those individuals who may have a mental illness and may be a danger to themselves and others.

Having the ability to retrieve firearms from a person that can be a danger to themselves and/or others can and will save lives. Also, the ability to upgrade background check databases, that would require critical information to be submitted by the close of the next business day is a critical layer of help law enforcement will need, and thus be more effective.

We mourn the loss of the 3 lives taken on February 27, 2012; Danny Parmertor, Demetius Hewlin, and Russell King Jr. The Coach Hall Foundation will continue to work and support these types of legislation that can and will prevent our families and communities from suffering the unimaginable pain of losing a loved one through senseless gun violence.

Collectively, Senate Bill 357 addresses the growing epidemic of gun violence in our state and in our country. It is an important first step in protecting the lives of our loved ones. We can no longer stand by and watch our families mourn the loss of loved ones because of senseless gunfire and or mental illness.

We encourage you to support this important piece of legislation for our state and its people.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim Armelli  
President, The Coach Hall Foundation  
[tim.armelli@coachhallfoundation.org](mailto:tim.armelli@coachhallfoundation.org)  
440-488-2978