

March 3, 2023

Dear Chairman Peterson and members of the Government Oversight Committee,

I would like to submit my testimony for the upcoming House Bill 51/SAPA hearing:

While I realize the gun violence in our state and country is unconscionable, the unconstitutional and draconian gun control laws and attempted laws do not stop the ugly violence in our state and country. They simply eliminate the opportunity for law-abiding Americans to purchase, to keep, and to utilize various weapons and accessories of their choices. The Second Amendment provides for the right to keep and bear arms; it does not provide for restrictions or limitations on such right. Any administration may decide to curtail, restrict, or limit the guns that we have a right to own if the administration has the congressional majorities—or the politicized alphabet departments—under its influence. Ohio needs to move proactively to protect our Second Amendment rights.

Passing HB51/SAPA will protect our rights and prevent law enforcement in Ohio from imposing the illegal overreach of the ATF. The last time that I checked, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms is **not** elected by the people, for the people, to serve the people. Its website states its purpose:

ATF's responsibilities include the investigation and prevention of federal offenses involving the unlawful use, manufacture, and possession of firearms and explosives; acts of arson and bombings; and illegal trafficking of alcohol and tobacco products. The ATF also regulates, via licensing, the sale, possession, and transportation of firearms, ammunition, and explosives in interstate commerce. Many of ATF's activities are carried out in conjunction with task forces made up of state and local law enforcement officers, such as Project Safe Neighborhoods. ATF operates a unique fire research laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland, where full-scale mock-ups of criminal arson can be reconstructed (ATF).

I do **not** see the establishment of laws dictating who may own what type of weapon or what type of gun accessory as part of its job description or responsibility.

If we allow the ATF to dictate our gun rights, we no longer have gun rights nor a Second Amendment. Passing House Bill 51, the Second Amendment Preservation Act, will maintain the Second Amendment freedoms for Ohioans. Unless the federal government weaponizes the ATF and—like with the IRS—hires tens of thousands of agents and arms them to go against the innocent, law-abiding people of this country that prides itself on freedom, we Ohioans should remain safe from the progressive liberals' illogical overreach.

Unfortunately, violence will continue to occur with or without this bill. It is not the gun or the gun accessory that creates the violence. The ATF does not seem to be limiting vehicle purchases of large sport utility vehicles to eliminate SUVs plowing into groups of people and killing some, nor does it seem to be limiting the size of blades in a knife to eliminate its ability to kill. Neither a vehicle's size nor a knife blade's size would change the intent to kill of a crazed murderer.

I ask you to vote in favor of House Bill 51, the Second Amendment Preservation Act. It is the logical and relevant step to take to maintain gun rights in Ohio and to prevent our law enforcement agents from becoming slaves to the ATF's whims.

Sincerely,  
Rosalyn Hardgrove, Ohio resident