

Ohio House State and Local Government Committee

HB 51 Opponent Testimony

Elizabeth Knighton

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Written-Only Testimony

I am writing in opposition to HB 51. We need our police forces to be strong to protect our communities; this bill will hamstring their abilities to hire qualified officers by eliminating anyone who had previously worked elsewhere and enforced federal laws. This will create a public safety crisis in Ohio, where we have already seen rising crime and increased numbers of firearm deaths in recent years. We need our police departments to be able to hire the best and the brightest to serve our communities, not be hampered by this law.

HB 51 will also allow an abuser convicted of domestic violence or under domestic violence restraining order to carry a concealed firearm without a permit, something currently prohibited by virtue of current Ohio law which adopts the federal gun disability list. As such, HB 51 will immediately make more power available to those inclined to use it for evil - which is the exact opposite of what we want for the communities in which we live and raise our children.

Further, based on what has happened following the enactment of federal nullification laws in other states, HB 51 is likely to embroil the state of Ohio in costly lawsuits which will distract our courts and officials from the business of serving Ohioans. Please do not squander our precious tax dollars by inviting wasteful lawsuits. Ohio can and should choose intentional ways to use this money to better our state.

For our residents and our law enforcement, please vote no on HB 51.

Thank you.