

Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony HB 51
By Don Baird

To the Chair, Ranking Member, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to House Bill 51.

I am a retired Pastor of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ. I live with my wife in Stark County. I strongly oppose HB 51. Research clearly shows that states that have looser gun laws have higher rates of gun homicide.(1) Presence of a gun in the home increases the risk of suicide by 3 times.(2) Gun violence is the leading cause of death for Ohio teens and children.(3)

I fail to understand why you are prioritizing the rights of gun owners over the right to life and safety of average Ohioans. This bill will make federal gun safety laws, like background checks, red flag laws, and age limits unenforceable in Ohio and will allow more people who should not have guns to access them. It will actually penalize communities and law enforcement officers for enforcing federal law. Nullifying federal gun safety laws in Ohio will lead to more deaths among our families.

Missouri's "nullification" law was already struck down by the courts as unconstitutional. I do not think you should waste my tax dollars on a bill that will be found to be unconstitutional.

This bill is too extreme for Ohioans. Please reject HB 51

Thank you,
Don Baird

- 1) <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hicrc/firearms-research/guns-and-death/>
- 2) [Andrew Anglemeyer](#), [Tara Horvath](#), [George Rutherford](#). The accessibility of firearms and risk for suicide and homicide victimization among household members: a systematic review and meta-analysis.
- 3) Children/teen deaths: CDC, WONDER