

House Government Oversight Committee
March 12, 2023

Committee Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Forhan and Committee Members:

My name is Sandra Fiehrer and I'm a concerned mom, wife and high-turnout voter writing this testimony to vehemently oppose HB 51 not only for myself, but for my family and neighbors who feel that Ohio has become a dangerous place to live and raise our families. This legislative body does not care about keeping us safe. HB 51 will not only make Ohio a more dangerous extremist state, but it is also unconstitutional.

States that have passed it are spending taxpayer dollars to defend this gun lobby legislation instead of doing what they were elected to do. Last Tuesday March 7, a Federal Judge in Missouri ruled that Missouri's identical (template) bill is unconstitutional because it pre-empts the federal government under the U.S. Constitution's supremacy clause. This bill also proposes allowing convicted domestic abusers or persons under a restraining order to carry a concealed firearm without a permit and exposes Ohio political subdivisions employing law enforcement officers to \$50K fines and civil suits for enforcing federal gun laws in our state. It would also bar the state from hiring qualified former federal law enforcement officers who in the past enforced federal gun regulations. At the same time, you're trying to pass a bill to allow 18 year olds to become law enforcement officers? This is insane. HB 51 is another example of the majority legislature putting self-interest and special interests above the people of Ohio. What real problem is this solving? It appears to create more gun violence, create civil suits and spend our tax dollars to defend guns instead of upholding the constitution. We already have too much gun violence and violent extremism in Ohio. Last weekend there was another incident in Wadsworth, where a Nazi protestor pulled a gun and aimed it at unarmed protestors on the other side.



You have laid the groundwork for even more of this violence by setting a goal of lawlessness. I'm asking you to listen to Ohio's voting majority who support gun safety regulations and vote against HB 51.

