

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

My name is Laura Irvin and I am from Lorain County where we have had more than our share of gun violence. In the last few years we have had two mass shooting, suicides, drive-by shootings, and even a 14 year old shot and killed while sleeping in his bed.

Instead of loosening gun laws in Ohio we need to strengthen the few laws that we currently have. I am asking you to REJECT HB 51. This bill would undermine the rule of law by attempting to nullify federal gun laws. This would erode public safety in Ohio by preventing law enforcement from cooperating with federal entities to keep Ohioans safe.

HB51 is particularly dangerous for women. According to Everytown's research, each month 70 women are shot and killed by an intimate partner. Nearly 1 million report they have been shot or shot at by an intimate partner. HB51 will allow an abuser convicted of domestic violence or under a domestic violence restraining order to be deemed a qualifying adult (ORC sec. 2923.111(A)(2)(B) who can carry a concealed firearm without a permit. This bill also puts our law enforcement in greater danger since domestic violence calls are often the most dangerous for police. With gun ownership and gun violence increasing in our state, I'm angry that the sponsors of this bill feel that protecting women and law enforcement is not a priority as this bill demonstrates.

A law very much like HB51 was deemed unconstitutional in Missouri by federal courts. Do we really want to spend our tax payer money in court defending a law that makes us less safe and is unconstitutional? Please don't waste our money and put our lives in further danger by passing this law.