

Testimony in Opposition to HB 51

Tamara Melnick

Dear members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present my testimony in opposition to HB 51, the Ohio Second Amendment Preservation Act. My name is Tamara Melnick and I am a resident of Stark County. As a parent and concerned citizen, I became personally concerned with the effects of gun violence on our community after the 2018 incident at Jackson Memorial Middle School.

The proposed law is blatantly unconstitutional, established by over 200 years worth of judicial precedent. States cannot make laws that conflict with federal law. This principle is clearly laid out in the Constitution. Litigating a losing battle over this law would waste state resources and be an act of gross fiscal irresponsibility. Other states have already had similar laws overturned by the courts.

If passed, this law would undermine public safety in a number of ways. When bills similar to this one have been enacted or debated in other states, members of the public erroneously believed that gun laws no longer applied to them. Law enforcement would be hampered in their investigations by losing access to federal resources. Prosecutors and law enforcement could be exposed to costly lawsuits for simply doing their job in enforcing public safety laws.

This is a terrible law which does not promote the public good or uphold public safety in any way. I urge you to vote no on HB 51.