

Testimony on HB 51

March 10, 2023

Submitted by:

Ann Morahan

My name is Ann Morahan and as a concerned Ohioan I ask that you oppose HB51.

It is ironic that this bill is having a second hearing in March, the month to honor women. **Obviously the attempt to honor women is not in this bill, just the opposite.**

The bill states in section 2923.17 that “The general assembly of the state of Ohio is firmly resolved to support and defend the constitution of the United states against every aggression whether foreign or domestic. And is duty bound to oppose every infraction “Then page 6 of the analysis of the bill under the heading **Infringement** includes the following as an infringement- “any act ordering the confiscation of firearms, firearm accessories, or firearm ammunition from law-abiding citizens. (According to the dictionary it seems that infringement and infraction mean breaking the law).

Question: Is an abuser convicted of domestic violence or under a domestic violence restraining order deemed a law-abiding citizen????Does this bill allow such a person the right to have and carry a gun? Is this a fitting way to honor women or men who are abused? Please help me to understand this bill. If this is not correct, please advise.

In case you don't remember: the deaths of two Westerville officers, Anthony Morelli and Eric Joering rocked our small community. Every resident took this personally and we grieved and will never forget. They were killed because an abused woman called the police and the abuser had obtained a gun through a “straw” sale. Both the abuser and the person who purchased the gun are now in prison but two caring and daring officers are dead. And for what?? Will more officers be killed due to the ease with which an abuser can purchase a gun??????

This appears to be another attempt to thwart federal regulations. It appears to be another way to chip away at protections for women's rights. Instead of cooperating with the federal government to protect the most vulnerable, Ohio politicians seem to be trying to imitate doughboy or a wounded bird who needs to puff out its chest to assert its power. Is it all about power? Do you think your actions in proposing this bill will give you applause for expanding gun rights at the expense of harming and killing the abused?

Some gun rights advocates have said to own a gun is their God-given right. Do you believe this is true if it infringes upon a true law-abiding citizen who is trying to live?