

**Government Oversight Committee**  
**Opponent Testimony on House Bill 51**

Submitted by Jen Madaffer

Dear Chairman, Ranking Member, and committee members. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this matter.

I am a resident of North Lawrence, a rural community in Stark County and a mother. I'm writing this testimony as a private, and very concerned, citizen. The proposed bill, HB 51, would make Ohioans, especially women and children, *far* less safe. I cannot begin to understand why we would want to put guns in the hands of domestic abusers. HB 51 would scrap the Federal List that disqualifies domestic abusers from buying a gun. Instead, it would allow convicted abusers to concealed carry a gun, as long as they weren't convicted of Felony abuse, like incapacity, permanent disfigurement, or intractable pain.[1] But injuries that heal, like black eyes, concussions, broken bones, are charged as Misdemeanor abuse. So an abuser can beat up his partner repeatedly but never get a Felony charge. He's still a danger to his partner. **Abusers with firearms are 5 X more likely to kill their female victims [2] and guns magnify the power and control of the abuser.**

When domestic shootings occur, children are often the innocent bystander. One of the most common ways that children get shot is during a domestic dispute that escalates to gun violence. Even if the child is not shot, imagine the trauma they carry with them throughout life from having watched one parent shoot the other or threaten them at gun point.

So who exactly does this bill serve? It is clear that it is designed to benefit the gun industry, not Ohio citizens. Respect our Federal gun laws, as our US Constitution stipulates. Reject HB 51.

Thank you,

Jen Maddaffer

1. [ORC 2901.01(A)(5)].
2. Jacqueline C. Campbell et al, "Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships....", American Journal of Public Health, 93, no. 7, July 2003