

House Government Oversight Committee
Opponent Testimony HB 51
Lenore Brechun

To the Chairman, Ranking Member, and Committee Members,
thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I'm a mother and grandmother residing in Jackson Township, Stark County. I strongly oppose HB 51.

The proposed bill, HB 51, would make Ohioans, especially women and children, less safe. If it passes, Ohio will ignore 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 causing incapacity, permanent disfigurement, or intractable pain.[1] But injuries that can heal, like black eyes, concussions or broken bones, are only charged as Misdemeanor abuse. So an abuser could repeatedly beat up his partner and never get a Felony charge. It's clear that such an abuser is still a danger to his victim. Besides, many Felony abuse charges get pled down to Misdemeanors. Abusers with firearms are 5 X more likely to kill their female victims [2] and guns increase the power and control of the abuser. So HB 51 would be setting more women up to get shot.

When children are shot, it is often because they were caught in the middle of a domestic shooting. Even if the child is not shot themselves, the trauma of watching one parent shoot another will be a terrible burden for them to bear. Why would you do this to Ohio's children?

Ohioans WANT common sense gun safety measures, like federal background checks. A poll from Quinnipiac University showed that 90% of Ohioans support background checks for gun buyers. [3]. We do NOT want our state overturning those federal laws. Please listen to Ohio voters and reject HB 51.

Thank you,
Lenore Brechun

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1. State level NICS denial data obtained by Everytown via FOIA requests.
 2. Jacqueline C. Campbell et al, "Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships....", American Journal of Public Health, 93, no. 7, July 2003
 3. As reported on FOX 19 News, *Updated: Jul. 31, 2019*