

Dena Lishing

Opponent Testimony HB 51

To the Chairman and Committee Members,

My name is Dena Lishing. I oppose HB 51, because my 11 year old son was shot and killed by an older teen who got hold of the gun at his grandfather's house. Two days later, he used it to shoot Caleb while Caleb was asleep. If that gun had been stored where the teen could not get it, Caleb would be alive.

I am not against people having guns if they use them safely and keep them locked away from children. Every day I hope and pray that the government will pass safe storage laws. But if you pass this HB 51 then even if the federal government does pass safe storage laws, you will just ignore it. In fact, with HB 51, you will actually penalize police officers who do enforce federal gun laws. The bill says police officers will be fined \$50,000 per incident just for doing their job!

This bill would also allow people convicted of domestic abuse or who have a restraining order against them for domestic abuse to concealed carry a gun. This would put me in direct danger from ex husband who abused me. He should not be allowed to concealed carry.

My son's name is Caleb Lishing and he lived only a short life. His dreams died the day he did, and my dreams for him died also. He was a smart, caring, compassionate, loving young boy. His smile would brighten a room and his laughter would fill your heart. This does not just impact the person who died, it impacts the family of the child. It's been several years and for me, his mother, it's like it was yesterday. Every life matters. If gun owner's lives and rights matter; then so should Caleb's rights and those of his family. For Caleb and for all the other children who will be shot in Ohio, I beg you to vote No on HB 51.

Sincerely

Dena Lishing