

House Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony: HB 51
Submitted by William Koltek

To the Chair, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to House Bill 51.

My name is William Koltek. I am a 35-year resident and voter in the rural community of Louisville, Ohio. I oppose HB 51. I find the provisions in HB 51 to be alarming and dangerous.

Ohio has, in recent years, expanded gun ownership rights to a degree that is inimical to public safety, and HB 51 is such an extreme measure in this regard that it approaches the point of absurdity. Has it been lost on the authors of this bill that extending the “freedom” of permitless concealed carry to individuals convicted of domestic violence or under a restraining order would come at the expense of their victims’ freedom? Should their freedom not to fear for their lives be sacrificed to the gun cult? We hear so much about “victims’ rights,” yet they clearly are unimportant where satisfying the firearms industry is concerned.

The limitations HB 51 places on political subdivisions with respect to enforcing federal law surely are unconstitutional. Is defending this measure worth the expense and time that litigation will entail?

My understanding is that HB 51 will bar the state from hiring qualified, former federal law enforcement officers who had enforced federal gun regulations. In other words, they will be denied employment on the grounds that they carried out their duties and responsibilities in their previous positions. Translated: Competent, experienced professionals need not apply.

HB 51 is just one of many bills we are seeing in numerous states that would use the law to promote and enforce a state of anarchy, the potential for extreme violence and contempt for government. Be careful what you wish for.

Thank you,
William Koltek

