

SB 51

Erick Bellomy, Brady Ohio President

ebellomy@bradyunited.org



**Committee Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Forhan and Committee Members,
thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.**

My name is Erick Bellomy and I'm the Ohio Chapter President for The Brady Campaign, the Nation's Oldest Gun Violence Prevention organization. I stand in front of this committee today to urge you to oppose HB 51, an unconstitutional bill that would make Ohio a sanctuary state for the 2nd Amendment. I also stand here as a member of the involuntary club as a survivor of Gun Violence after my pops was murder on October 12th, 2017 in our home. That day was by far the hardest day that I've ever had to endure and I would never wish the pain of losing someone in such a tragic way on anyone. Me and my dad was close, often times we'd spend time watching movies, going to the park, enjoying magic mountain. One of my favorite memories would be from him teaching me how to ride a bike, to drive a car at 18. The worst memory though, was when I standing at the yellow tape with my 70 year old grandmother seeing his body lay on the floor for 8 hours because someone had decided to tragically and selfishly take his life.

What the sponsors of this bill are doing is adding more guns to an already volatile situation and we have seen time and time again that the Majority of this legislator values guns over life, but claim to be pro-life. If you are pro-life your members would be open to the fact that gun violence is an issue in our country and right here in the State of Ohio. The other fact is the majority of Ohioans support safe, common sense gun laws and oppose dangerous gun legislation like limited training for arming teachers, stand your ground provisions, permit less carry and now this dangerous and absurd bill that would make Ohio a second amendment sanctuary state which would allow those who have been convicted of domestic violence carry conceal without a permit.

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I have talked to and worked closely with survivors across the country over the last few years with Brady, from families that lost children in the Parkland Shooting to Families that lost loved ones right here in Ohio during the Oregon District Shooting and I find it absolutely appalling that our legislators pay tribute to these victims by passing dangerous gun legislation that will tear families apart. I also found that the sponsors and supporters of this bill has not lost a close loved one to the epidemic of gun violence, and their very small rural districts do not gave a gun violence issue like bigger cities.

Often times we see these bill get passed because of special interests, pockets being lined and because the gun lobby is so far in your pockets that it's hard for you to say not but I ask you to put yourself in the shoes of someone who has tragically lost their loved one. Imagine it was your daughter, son, mother that was murdered and it's something that YOU could have prevented. Imagine that your child or grandchild got ahold of an unlocked gun and shot themselves but you could have introduced and passed safe storage laws which could have prevented that. Imagine backing the blue, but a convicted domestic abuser gets pulled over and tragically shoots a police officer because he was allowed to purchase and carry a gun under YOUR watch because you passed this bill.

I ask this committee to PLEASE pass laws that protect Ohioans. Laws like Extreme Risk laws that protect someone from hurting themselves or someone else, safe storage laws that keeps kids away from firearms, expanded background checks with waiting periods to prevent another mass shooting from happening, and more. I ask that you keep the lives of your constituents at the forefront of your mind and not your pockets. Lives depend on it, my dad's life depended on it and ultimately your life could depend on it too.

Thank you for your time and I open for any questions...

Erick Bellomy

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614-812-9111

