

Testimony Opposing House Bill 51
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
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Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Forhan and Committee Members.

I wish to voice my strong opposition to HB51.

On its face, you should reject this bill if only because it violate the U.S. Constitution, and will undoubtedly be ruled invalid in the inevitable court battles, costing Ohio taxpayers money that will be needlessly spent defending it.

But beyond that, on the substance of the bill, it will simply make Ohio a more dangerous state by:

- Confusing law enforcement. This vaguely worded law will leave our state and local law enforcement unsure of how and when they can enforce the laws of our nation, without exposing their employers to civil lawsuits and exorbitant fines.
- Emboldening criminals, who will only hear the headline “federal gun laws nullified in Ohio”.
- Allowing abusers convicted of domestic violence or under domestic violence restraining order to be deemed a “qualifying adult” {ORC sec. 2923.111(A)(2)(B)} who could carry a concealed firearm without a permit. Such domestic abusers are currently prohibited from permitless carry in Ohio by virtue of current Ohio law which adopts the federal gun disability list. {18 USC sec. 922(g)}
- Fueling anti-government sentiment and encouraging violence.

Please reject this dangerous, unconstitutional bill.