

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

My name is Elizabeth Overmier, I am a concerned citizen, member of the Brady Ohio United Against Gun Violence State Executive Committee and the Brady Ohio Education Lead. As a teacher I listen to students tell about gun violence at their parks and around their homes. The easy availability of guns doesn't make Ohioans safer.

I am here to ask you to please oppose HB51, which is particularly dangerous for women. According to Everytown's research, each month 70 women are shot and killed by an intimate partner. Nearly 1 million report they have been shot or shot at by an intimate partner. HB51 will allow an abuser convicted of domestic violence or under a domestic violence restraining order to be deemed a qualifying adult (ORC sec. 2923.111(A)(2)(B) who can carry a concealed firearm without a permit. This bill also puts our law enforcement at greater danger since domestic violence calls are often the most dangerous for police. With gun ownership and gun violence increasing in our state, I'm angry that the sponsors of this bill feel that protecting women and law enforcement is not a priority as this bill demonstrates.

As Justice Scalia said, in the Heller case "Like most rights, the right secured by the Second Amendment right is not unlimited.... [It is] not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose." While 2022 statistics are not available, 2021 witnessed 1,762 gun deaths in Ohio according to data from the Ohio Department of Health. I ask that you protect Ohioans, especially women and law enforcement by opposing HB51.

Exactly six years ago today, Amanda Mangas, a pretty 23-year-old- nursing student living in Delta, Ohio, was gunned down in her home by her son's father then 27-year-old James Ramey. Ramey took their 10-month-old son Winston and Amanda's stepmother and fled Ohio. Amanda, mortally injured with a gunshot wound to the chest, identified her killer in a dying declaration. She died shortly at a hospital. Winston, Amanda's stepmother and Ramey were found in Indiana. Ramey was taken into custody. Before she died, Amanda did what she was supposed to do. She took out a protective order after Ramey menaced her with a knife.

As you vote on this legislation think of Amanda and Winston and all they lost. Amanda didn't get to finish her nursing degree. She didn't get to celebrate Winston's first birthday or take him to his first day of school. She and Winston have lost six years of holidays, and that number is never ending. Winston has been without his mother for 2,191 days, another number that won't stop. If

we don't learn from the past and do better I'm afraid there will be more Amandas and Winstons.
Please protect them and vote no on HB51.

