

Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony: HB 51
Submitted by Marilou Montis

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 Marilou Montis, I live in Akron, Ohio and I am the mother of a teenage daughter. I strongly oppose HB 51.

I can't understand why this Legislature keeps prioritizing the rights and interests of gun owners over my daughter's safety. Common sense gun laws, like the federal qualifications for who can buy or concealed carry a gun, help protect us from even more gun violence. But you have weakened our state's gun laws to the point where we have a higher rate of gun deaths than 23 other states. [1] We deserve better! If you choose to nullify federal gun laws in Ohio, you will be responsible for many more tragic deaths and injuries. As one Ohio Sheriff told the Legislature on another gun bill, you will never know the names of the people you save if you leave federal gun laws in place, but you will see the names of the people who die as a result of HB 51.

Please stop this extreme bill.

Thank you,
Marilou Montis

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1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death. A yearly average was developed using four years of the most recent available data: 2018 to 2021.