

**Opposition Testimony HB 51**  
**By Leslie Baird**

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.

As a retired public school professional, living in Stark County, I oppose this bill. I'm so outraged and heartbroken at what you are doing! This bill is dangerous to Ohioans. This bill will nullify federal gun safety laws, like background checks and allow more people who should not have guns to carry them. Research clearly shows that states that have looser gun laws have higher rates of gun violence. **Even if you modify or amend this bill to remove certain parts (like penalizing police) it will still be a totally unacceptable bill, resulting in more gun deaths in Ohio.**

Other states, like Missouri, have already passed "nullification" laws only to have them struck down by the courts as unconstitutional. You should not waste taxpayer dollars on a bill that will surely be found to be unconstitutional. Instead of focusing on "protecting" the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment, you should focus on protecting the right to life of our families.

I urge you to make the sensible decision and reject this extreme bill.

Thank you,  
Leslie Baird