

Opposition Testimony on HB 51
Submitted by: Dale Cody

Chairman Peterson, Ranking Member Forhan, and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to HB 51.

My name is Dale Cody. My wife and I reside in N. Canton, Stark County, Oh. We always vote.

I strongly oppose HB 51, even if it is amended or a similar bill is substituted! In any form, this bill will cause more Ohioans to die and hurt our state.

This bill will make it harder to hire and retain qualified, experienced police officers. It will prevent the state from hiring former federal law enforcement officers who had enforced federal gun regulations in their previous positions. It is already hard to hire police. This bill will narrow the pool of qualified applicants even further.

The bill will also make it harder for existing Ohio police to do their job. It will slap them with expensive fines for enforcing federal gun laws and subject them to lawsuits.

According to the CDC, 1,702 Ohioans die by guns every year. Ohio's gun death rate has been growing rapidly and we now have the 23rd-highest gun death rate in the US. (1) HB 51 will make federal gun safety laws unenforceable in Ohio and will penalize cities and counties for enforcing federal laws. This is exactly the opposite of what we need in our communities to be safer. Multiple studies show that states with looser gun laws suffer more gun deaths than states with stricter gun laws. (2)

I urge you to vote **no** on HB51.

Respectfully,
Dale Cody

1. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/gun-violence-by-state.2023>
2. Havard T.H. Chan School of Public Health <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hicrc/firearms-research/guns-and-death/>

