

**House Government Oversight Committee  
Opposition Testimony HB 51  
Submitted by Matt Harmon**

To the Chairman, Ranking Member and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.

I strongly oppose HB 51. Even if you amend or substitute something similar for this bill, it will still make Ohio a dangerous state. My wife and I have worked hard to provide our 2 young children with a beautiful home in the conservative community of Jackson Township in Stark County. We expect our community to be safe and our home values to appreciate. This bill would make us far less safe and devalue our homes.

This bill would allow our state legislature to choose to ignore any existing or future federal gun bill, such as background checks. According to a poll by USA Survey in 2016, 90% of Ohioans want our state to require background checks and permits for concealed carry. As parents, we know what is safest for our families. There is ample evidence that states that have the loosest gun laws have the highest rates of gun deaths. But our state continues to move in the wrong direction on gun violence.

HB51 will penalize our hardworking police with \$50,000 fines (per incident) for following US law. It will subject not only individual police but our cities, townships, counties, etc. to law suits if they follow federal law. We taxpayers will pick up the bill.

It will also make it harder to hire qualified police officers because it prevents any former federal law enforcement officer, who enforced federal laws in the course of their previous job, from being hired as a law enforcement officer in our state.

You should not waste taxpayer dollars on a bill that will surely be found to be unconstitutional. Instead of “protecting” the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment, you should protect the right to life of our families.

Please stop this extreme bill.

Thank you,  
Matt Harmon