

Government Oversight Committee
Opponent Testimony HB 51
From Penny Hubbard

To the Chairman, Ranking Members, and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My husband and I lived in Clinton, Ohio, a rural community, for years and raised all three of our daughters there. We recently built a new house in Medina, Oh. All three girls now work or teach in public schools in N.E. Ohio. We all vote consistently and the whole family feels the same way about gun violence in Ohio.

I oppose HB 51. I expect you may try to amend it but there is NO way to make this a good bill for Ohioans. I am very concerned because HB51 is dangerous for Women and Children.

This bill would allow domestic abusers to carry concealed weapons. Right now, domestic abusers (whether they were convicted of a felony OR a misdemeanor charge) are disqualified from owning a gun by Federal law. If HB 51 passes, the Federal disqualifying list may no longer apply in Ohio. Instead, Ohio's state law would apply. Ohio law only prevents those convicted of a Felony abuse from concealed carrying a gun. To be a Felony charge, the abuser must have caused "serious physical harm- like incapacity, disfigurement or injury causing prolonged intractable pain" [ORC 2901.01(A)(5)]. I guess a broken bone that can heal just doesn't count. Now "misdemeanor abuse" may not sound too bad but women can tell you, thousands of felony abuse charges are pled down to "misdemeanor." **An abuser is an abuser! Anyone who is hitting, knocking down, slapping or threatening a woman (or their domestic partner) is an abuser and should not have a gun.** Under HB 51, if a domestic abuse victim gets a restraining order against such an abuser, the abuser would still be entitled to permitless concealed carry.

HB 51 makes Ohio more dangerous for women. Access to a gun makes it 5X more likely that a woman will die at the hands of a domestic abuser. It's also dangerous for children because one of the

most frequent ways children get shot is that they get caught in the middle of a domestic abuse shooting.

So please, protect Ohio women and children. Our rights matter just as much as the 2nd Amendment. Reject HB 51, even if amended!

Thank you,
Penny Hubbard