

Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony: HB 51
Submitted by Sammie Dannug

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 Sammie Dannug and I am a teacher at Jackson Middle School in Massillon, Oh. **If passed, HB 51, regardless of whether you amend it or substitute another similar bill, will make Ohio a more dangerous place for our children and families.**

In 2018, I experienced an attempted school shooting that ended with the shooter taking his own life in the school bathroom. My classroom was just 2 doors down from that bathroom. I hid with my students in the classroom for 4 hours until the all clear. A worse tragedy was averted because another student saw the gun and ran to tell a teacher. This is a quiet suburban community, with excellent schools, surrounded by rural areas and I never expected that I would face this situation. I am horrified at the easy access to guns in our communities. I find NO evidence that more guns in schools or in our communities will make us safer. In fact, we know that guns in homes are much more likely to be used to shoot a child or result in a child accessing the gun and shooting themselves or others than shooting an intruder (1).

If passed, HB 51 will make Ohio a more dangerous place for our children and families. This bill allows easy access to guns with disregard for federal laws that were designed to protect us. These federal laws were enacted to decrease gun violence. In fact, if HB 51 becomes law, those federal protective measures will actually be punishable in Ohio. The state legislature seems to value gun possession more than it values my life and the lives of my young students

Please reject HB 51.
Sammie Dannug

1. Kellermann AL, Somes G, Rivara FP, Lee RK, Banton JG. Injuries and deaths due to firearms in the home. J Trauma. 1998 Aug;45(2):263-7. doi: 10.1097/00005373-

199808000-00010. PMID: 9715182. Author affiliation: Center for Injury Control, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA.