

**Government Oversight Committee  
Opposition Testimony HB 51  
Submitted by Debbie Toder, MD**

Thank you for allowing me to present written testimony in opposition to HB 51.

I am a Pediatric Pulmonologist, member of the American Academy of Pediatrics and an Ohio resident who always votes. I take care of children whose lives and those of their families have been forever destroyed by gun violence.

**I strongly oppose HB 51. There are no amendments or substitutions that will make this bill safe for Ohio.** Nullifying existing and future common sense gun laws (like the federal “disqualifying” list for background checks, age limits on buying AR-15s, Extreme Risk Protection Orders, etc.) will simply add more deaths and injuries to Ohio’s total. In short, more children will be shot.

The presence of a gun in the home or auto has been shown to endanger children. According to the Children’s Defense Project, “Gun violence was the leading cause of death for all children and teens ages 1-19 in 2018, surpassing motor vehicle accidents for the first time in history.” We already have more guns than adult citizens in this country but our gun death rate keeps going up at an alarming pace. The NRA and other gun lobbies constantly proclaim their “second amendment” rights. But who is looking out for the rights of the 1,300 children who die from guns every year in America and the many more are seriously injured. [1]

Please Vote NO on HB 51

Thank you,  
Debbie Toder, MD

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1] Nationwide Children’s. <https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/research/areas-of-research/center-for-injury-research-and-policy/injury-topics/general/gun-safety>