

House Government Oversight Committee
Opponent Testimony HB 51
George Brechun

To the Chairman, Ranking Member, and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to testify. **I strongly oppose HB 51. I expect you plan to amend it or substitute a similar bill but you must reject this bill in any form or any similar bill.**

First of all, I believe this bill goes against the very structure of our nation's government and traditions. The US constitution makes it clear that federal laws supersede state laws. Since the Civil War, our country has thrived with this structure. The supporters of this bill want to take us back hundreds of years to a network of states without unifying federal laws. They want to pick and choose which federal laws they will obey. Some of their most extreme spokespeople even talk about secession. I believe that federal laws, like common sense gun regulations which are designed to reduce gun violence, must be enforced in Ohio. Otherwise, you are opening the door to all kinds of federal laws and programs, like Medicare and Social Security, being selectively nullified in our state. The result would be financial and societal chaos for Ohio.

Secondly, HB51 is a waste of taxpayer money. If passed, the bill will penalize Ohio police with \$50,000 fines (per incident) for enforcing US law. It will subject not only individual police officers but our counties, cities, townships, etc. to law suits should they follow federal law. We taxpayers will pick up the bill. A similar law in Missouri was recently struck down by federal courts as unconstitutional and HB 51 will surely be too. Why waste taxpayer dollars to defend an unconstitutional law?

I urge you to vote NO on HB 51 and all similar bills.

Respectfully,
George Brechun

