

Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony HB 51
Ashley Brechun

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.

As a mother and voter living in Massillon, Ohio, **I oppose HB 51. Even if you amend it or substitute a similar bill, this bill is dangerous to Ohioans.** It will allow the state to nullify federal gun safety laws, like background checks, age limits for owning AR-15s and Red Flag laws. It will allow more people who should not have guns to carry them. States that have looser gun laws have higher rates of gun violence. In an average year, 1,700 people die from guns in Ohio. Gun violence is the leading cause of death of children in our state. (CDC Underlying Cause of Death, 2018-2021.)

The 2nd Amendment is already VERY well protected in Ohio. You've already passed Permitless Carry, Stand Your Ground, and Guns in Schools. I don't understand why you feel its necessary to "protect" the 2nd Amendment when it means ignoring the constitutional rights to safety of the rest of us. The Supreme Court has already ruled, in Heller vs. D.C., that gun safety restrictions, like background checks, do not violate the 2nd Amendment.

This bill is especially dangerous to women. Under current federal law, people convicted of abuse cannot concealed carry. If this bill passes, Ohio's state law will weaken the restrictions on abusers. As a result, fewer convicted abusers will be "disqualified" from concealed carrying a gun. More guns in the hands of more convicted abusers = more dead women.

HB 51 will make the jobs of Ohio's Police harder, confusing and more dangerous. It stipulates fines of \$50,000 (per incident) for Ohio law enforcement officers who enforce US gun laws. The bill will subject not only individual police but our towns, cities and counties to law suits if they follow federal law. All at great potential cost to taxpayers.

Please do not waste taxpayer dollars on a bill that will surely be found to be unconstitutional. Instead of "protecting" the 2nd amendment, you should protect the constitutional rights to life and safety of our families.

Please stop this extreme bill.

Thank you,
Ashley Brechan