

Opponent Testimony on House Bill 51
Government Oversight Committee
Submitted by: Wendy Oldaker

To the Chairman, Ranking Member, and Committee Members,

I am a resident, homeowner and voter in Stark Count, OH and I oppose HB 51 including any amended versions or substituted bills.

Ever since the Sandy Hook shooting, the NRA has been telling us that “the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.” The idea that more “Good Guys” with guns will stop shootings by “Bad Guys” has been thoroughly debunked by research. We have 400 million guns in this country but we lead the world in gun deaths! Our gun deaths continue to climb at alarming rates *especially here in Ohio.*

HB 51 will allow our legislature to pick and choose federal laws to nullify. Existing and future federal gun laws that were designed to make us safer could not be enforced in Ohio, in fact, they will penalize us for doing so. Laws like federal background checks and disqualification for gun ownership, age limits for owning AR-15s and Red Flag laws will be ignored in Ohio. It will allow more people who should not have guns to carry them. Research consistently shows that states that have looser gun laws have higher rates of gun violence. We already lose 1,702 people from guns in Ohio each year and gun violence is the leading cause of death of children in our state. (CDC Underlying Cause of Death, 2018-2021.)

HB 51 will penalize our hardworking police for enforcing federal law. It imposes \$50,000 fines per incident for following US law. It also subject our cities, townships, counties, etc. to law suits if they enforce federal law. I object that my tax money will be spent to pay these costs.

This bill is dangerous for women. Under current federal law, people convicted of abuse cannot concealed carry. If HB 51 passes, existing state law will weaken the restrictions that prevent convicted abusers from carrying guns. More abusers will be “qualified” to concealed carry.

I urge you to reject HB 51.

Thank you,
Wendy Oldaker