

Government Oversight Committee  
Opposition Testimony HB 51  
Submitted by Stephanie Douglas

To the Chairman, Ranking Member, and the Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to present testimony on this bill.

My name is Stephanie Douglas and I am a public-school teacher in Stark County. I am strongly and vehemently against HB 51 in its original form, with changes or substitutions.

This bill will prevent federal gun safety laws, like background checks, from being enforced in Ohio. In fact, it will heavily penalize our law enforcement officers and political sub-entities for enforcing federal law. Research from Boston University found that states that require permits and background checks have a 15% lower gun homicide rate than states that do not have these laws. (1) You have already taken away mandatory permitting and background checks in Ohio but at least leave the Federal Background System in place! Reliable polling from Quinnipiac University shows that 90% of all Ohioans WANT background checks. About 1,700 Ohioans die from gun violence each year (2). We should be doing everything we can to make Ohio safer from gun violence, not punishing our police and cities for following federal law.

Our nation was built on the premise that Federal Laws supersede State laws, except when otherwise allotted by the US Constitution. The US Constitution is important to me. You cannot take it into your own hands to destroy it. Reject HB 51.

Thank you,  
Stephanie Douglas

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1. Boston University School of Public Health  
<https://www.bu.edu/sph/news/articles/2019/universal-background-checks-lower-homicide-rates/>
  2. CDC, Underlying Cause of Death 2018-2022