

Committee Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Forhan and Committee Members:

My name is Mary Klain, I am a lifelong Ohio resident and citizen who is very concerned about the trajectory Ohio is currently taking, especially regarding legislation making its way through the Statehouse. I write today to voice my strong opposition to HB51. This legislation will not only make Ohio a more dangerous state in which to live but it is unconstitutional. Other states that have passed similar legislation are costing their taxpayers money while their lawmakers defend this terrible legislation rather than doing the job they were voted into office to do and make the lives of their constituents better.

On March 7 of this year, a federal judge ruled Missouri's identical bill unconstitutional and preempted by the federal government under the US Constitution's supremacy clause. U.S. District Judge Brain Wimes, in his ruling stated "At best, this statute causes confusion among state law enforcement officials who are deputized for federal task operations, and at worst, is unconstitutional on its face."

According to Everytown's research, each month 70 women are shot and killed by an intimate partner. Nearly 1 million report they have been shot or shot at by an intimate partner. HB51 will allow an abuser convicted of domestic violence or under a domestic violence restraining order to be deemed a qualifying adult (ORC sec. 2923.111(A)(2)(B)) who can carry a concealed firearm without a permit. That is terrifying--really, what are you thinking?!

If you are really supporting our law enforcement officers, then you will stop this legislation now because it puts our law enforcement in greater danger since domestic violence calls are often the most dangerous for police.

With gun ownership and gun violence increasing in our state, I'm angry that the sponsors of this bill feel that protecting women and law enforcement is not the priority, as this bill demonstrates. It is my fervent belief that Ohio's Legislators would spend their time (and our taxpayer money) more effectively by creating legislation to protect regular, everyday Ohioans from the ever increasing gun violence that keeps getting closer and closer to each of us. Expanding the rights of gun owners makes every single one of us less safe!

I ask that you protect Ohians and the United States Constitution by opposing this terrible piece of legislation!

Sincerely,  
Mary Klain