



Monday, May 22, 2023

RE: WRITTEN ONLY - Opposition Against Ohio House Bill 51: Second Amendment Preservation Act

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Forhan & members of the Ohio House Government Oversight Committee.:

On behalf of the March for Our Lives, a courageous youth-led movement dedicated to promoting civic engagement, education, and direct action by youth to eliminate the epidemic of gun violence, I write this letter to register our opposition for HB 51.

As someone born and raised on the west side of Akron, Ohio, I understand the effect living around gun violence has on children & teens. [As of 2020, gun violence became the leading cause of death for youth across the country, with an average of 144 children & teens dying each year in Ohio.](#) This kind of legislation has the ability to loosen existing gun safety measures and the potential to make it easier for firearms to end up in the wrong hands; hands that are more likely to increase the previously mentioned average.

As we see more and more lives lost due to gun violence & the misuse of firearms, this bill is a harmful response to the increasing instances of gun violence across the state. HB 51 is harmful in that it prioritizes firearm ownership over the safety of people in Ohio.

For these reasons, we strongly oppose HB 51 and urge the committee to vote against the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Madelyn A. Cobb

March for Our Lives

Madelyn Cobb
Policy & Government Affairs Manager