

Opposition Testimony to HB51
House Government Oversight Committee
Andrea Kovesdi
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Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas and Ranking Member Humphrey thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to the Second Amendment Preservation Act in front of the House Government Oversight committee. My name is Andrea Kovesdi and I am a lifelong Ohioan. My husband and I are small business owners and have two adult children who reside in Ohio.

This is my third time testifying against this bill since March. This time, I will speak to the proposed changes in Sub HB51. First, I believe that this bill needs to be scrapped and not just amended. Even with the amendments, SubHB51 would still allow domestic abusers with misdemeanor convictions, illegal aliens, dishonorably discharged military personnel and US citizenship renouncers that illegally possess a firearm to sue the state or a political subdivision that attempts to charge them and remove their illegally held weapon. The state or political subdivision would also be subject to \$50,000 in civil penalties “per occurrence” and have to pay the attorneys fees and court costs to the offender. And, the “safe harbor” provisions in the Sub HB51 do nothing to address such a situation.

For years now I’ve listened to gun enthusiasts in hearing rooms just like this one vociferously proclaim that they are ALL law abiding citizens and for the most part gun owners are ALL law abiding citizens and god forbid we infringe on their rights. By definition a law abiding citizen is one that abides by the law. Law abiding citizens do not pick and choose which laws they will abide by as the sponsors and proponents of this bill seem to be encouraging. Someone that has been convicted of misdemeanor domestic abuse is not law abiding and should not be able to keep their firearms, sue law enforcement and bring down \$50,000 civil fines upon them!

In addition, Sub HB51 continues to be in violation of the US Constitution’s Supremacy Clause. I’m quite sure that everyone on this committee is aware that a nearly identical bill became law in Missouri two years ago and was struck down as unconstitutional by a federal judge back in March while we were all sitting in this room hearing proponent testimony.

This past spring, at the beginning of our journey with this bill, the proponents of HB51 used misleading language when claiming that those that own pistol braces will become felons JUST LIKE THAT! That is not the case. Pistol braces have NOT BEEN BANNED

by the ATF. As of May 31, gun owners that use a pistol brace are required to register said weapon. This is a safety precaution. The pistol brace when used as a shoulder stock as in the Dayton mass shooting of Aug. 2019 effectively turns a pistol into a short barreled rifle. The shooter is able to fire with rifle-like accuracy and in the case of the Dayton mass shooting fire over 40 rounds in roughly 30 seconds killing 9 and injuring 27. I would think that responsible gun owners in Ohio would welcome any safety measures in a state that consistently scores above the national average for gun deaths and where gun homicides increased by 94% from 2012 to 2021. *CDC Wonder, 2012-2021*. I ask that you stop this bill from moving forward and look for ways to make Ohio a safer place for its people, not its guns!