

Testimony of Kirsten Osteboe
Volunteer with Moms/Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
Ohio State House - Government Oversight Committee Hearing
October 10, 2023, 10:00AM

Good afternoon **Chairman Peterson, Committee members, and staff.** Thank you for hearing my testimony today.

My name is Kirsten Osteboe

I am a sophomore at Miami University originally from Minneapolis, MN and I have had to bear witness to Gun Violence and School shootings since I was in elementary school.

I am testifying today because HB 51 is a dangerous gun bill that seeks to prohibit Ohio law enforcement and law enforcement agencies from assisting in enforcing certain federal gun laws.

I remember from a young age learning the fundamentals of gun safety as I grew up in a household with firearms present. Thus, I had to learn the laws required to purchase, own, and use a gun. I was told stories about gun violence, and individuals who broke the law and how it led to harming themselves or perhaps worse, others. I learned how justice was served to victims with respect to the federal laws put in place. HB51 undermines the laws carried out by law enforcement and the legal system, which can successfully and universally serve justice and peace to those who mishandle, or act negligent with a gun in their possession. Voting yes to HB51 would pose a threat to the balance of justice and lead to questioning the security of gun-owners and non gun-owners alike. Just because individuals may disagree with a law, doesn't mean that it doesn't serve a valuable purpose to the overall population. There is a fine line between free will and order, and the United States has always prided itself on that. However, HB51 would blur those lines and pose numerous threats to the order federal gun laws impose.

My experience leads me to emphasize the overall safety of citizens from gun violence is at risk, that undermining federal law puts into question what other laws put in place to protect citizens can be subverted..

In the United States, the rate of gun suicide increased 19% and gun homicide increased 73% from 2012 to 2021, respectively (everystat)

This bill poses several significant concerns:

1. HB 51, if enacted, could lead to a direct conflict with federal law. The Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution clearly establishes that federal law takes precedence over state law. This bill's attempt to nullify federal laws could result in costly legal challenges in the state and unnecessary litigation.
2. Attempting to nullify basic, common sense federal gun laws may compromise public safety by hindering law enforcement's ability to address firearms-related issues effectively and send a false message to criminals that federal gun laws will not be enforced. Our law enforcement officers must protect public safety but this bill would hinder their ability to do so and cause confusion for law enforcement and for citizens alike.
3. The bill's provisions imposing civil liability and penalties on state or political subdivisions, for enforcing federal law could have unintended consequences, discouraging law enforcement from collaborating with federal agencies on matters of national importance. We want our law enforcement officers to have clear guidance on what they can and cannot do and this bill makes that complicated and confusing.

I encourage members of the committee to **vote NO on HB 51.**

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be here today.