

Testimony on HB51
Ohio House Government Oversight Committee
Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Submitted by:
Martin Kohn

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Minority Leader Humphrey, and members of the committee, thank you for considering my written testimony in opposition to HB51.

If HB51 becomes law, Ohio would try to become a gun sanctuary state and no longer follow federal gun safety laws. This will endanger our communities and lead to more gun related deaths and injuries. Ohio would become a rogue state, claiming “States’ Rights”, which was a strategy used by southern states in the 1960’s to oppose Civil Rights laws. A similar bill passed in Missouri has already been declared unconstitutional in Federal District Court.

Consider this: Under the proposed HB51, should a state or municipal law enforcement officer enforce or assist in enforcing federal law, the state or political subdivision will be exposed to a lawsuit, \$50,000 fines, and an award of attorney fees/costs to be paid to the *criminal* who brings the lawsuit. Is this how Republicans in Ohio demonstrate their respect for the rule of law?

The majority of Ohioans are law-abiding citizens who want to live together in peace. This bill is designed to increase fear, social disruption, violence, and deaths.

Please VOTE NO on HB 51, a dangerous and uncivil bill.