

Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony on HB 51
Submitted by: Pat Krummrich

Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to HB 51 and related sub bills.

You must reject this bill, even if you amend it or substitute something similar.

Many of you have heard me testify on similar bills in the past. I normally tell you the story of my own loss, cite some pertinent evidence and urge you to vote a certain way. I'm kind of fed up with doing that and perhaps you are fed up with listening to me. So today, I'm gonna say something different.

If you want to vote for this bill, that's up to you. Just be aware that Ohioans are fed up with gun deaths. If you make Ohio a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary State, Republicans are going to face an incredible voting backlash over this issue. Gun violence has become a top voting issue for many Ohioans. We're sick of losing our family members and feeling unsafe in our communities. Republicans are already losing elections because of women's reproductive rights and over deconstructing democracy. Passing this bill (or similar sub-bills) is not to your advantage. You would do far better to listen to what Ohio voters are consistently trying to tell you, that we want sensible gun laws in Ohio, rather than bowing to the demands of the gun industry.

No patchwork of changes to HB 51 will make it a good bill; it is flawed from its core!

Respectfully, Pat Krummrich

I am a bereaved mother, having lost my daughter at age 15. I also lost my brother, Chief Warrant Officer 2nd class, when he committed suicide 2 years ago. As a Medical Speech Pathologist at Akron Children's Hospital, I treated children who had been shot. I understand the depth of pain that families suffer when their loved ones are taken by gun violence. I grieve for each of them. I grieve for our communities. I grieve for our state.

You don't really need me to quote you more facts about how many Ohioans die from gun violence each year. There are plenty of facts and statistics in the written testimonies before you (the gun lobbyists love to claim that we don't present evidence or facts but a quick review of Opponent Testimonies shows that's not true!) We've told you over and over about the research that shows that states with looser gun laws have higher rates of gun death. You don't need me to point out to you that an abuser with a gun is dangerous whether his abuse conviction was a felony or was pled down to a misdemeanor. You shouldn't need me to calculate for you how many of our tax dollars you will spend paying for the fines and lawsuits prescribed by this bill for police and for political subdivisions that enforce federal law. You shouldn't need me to describe for you the damage that allowing our state to ignore federal laws will do to the legal framework that is the backbone of our nation's success. What you do need to do, is to look at yourself in the mirror and ask yourself, is what you're doing to the families of Ohio and to economic and social fabric of our state worth elevating the demands of the gun lobby over the lives of our citizens?

I urge you to stop HB 51 from going any further.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Krummrich

