



Office of Representative Willis E. Blackshear Jr.  
State Representative  
77 S. High St.  
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the Government Oversight Committee thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present testimony for HB 433: Prohibit Mass Casualty Weapons.

This bill defines "Mass casualty weapon" as any semi-automatic firearm designed or specially adapted to fire more than thirty-one cartridges without reloading, other than a firearm chambering only .22 caliber short, long, or long-rifle cartridges.

The inception of the idea for this bill comes from a tragic event that is personal to me and those in my district: The 2019 Oregon District Shooting. For those that may not be aware, on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019, a gunman open fired at a crowded bar in Dayton, killing 9 people and injuring dozens more.

Despite an immediate response from law enforcement (32 seconds after the first shots were fired), the gunman was still able to fire 41 shots in those 32 seconds. Part of the reason the shooter was able to fire so many shots in that period is that he had a 100 round "double drum" magazine which allowed him to fire off more shots before needing to reload. Had a magazine restriction been in place, a gun such as the one he used would be illegal.

To be clear a gun with a magazine size of 30 plus 1 bullet in the chamber would still be legal under this bill, but we are trying to prevent large custom magazines being added to guns to increase the killing capacity of those weapons.

Currently, 14 states have some restriction on magazine sizes, some having different restrictions based on handguns vs. rifles, and some states also having penalties for the distribution of larger sized magazines.

Lastly, this bill is not a new approach to firearm regulation in Ohio. In fact, prior to 2015, Ohio law banned firearms equipped with a magazine that held more than 30 rounds, but a provision tucked into House Bill 234 from the 130<sup>th</sup> General Assembly eliminated firearm capacity limits.

We simply want to go back to the commonsense regulation Ohio had in place before 2015 – a regulation that recognized that there's simply no benefit to society that can outweigh the dramatic increase in killing power a magazine with more than 30 rounds in it conveys to its user.



## Office of Representative Willis E. Blackshear Jr.

State Representative

77 S. High St.

Columbus, OH 43215

Members of the committee, please join me to make a simple change that will save lives and help prevent tragedies like the one that took place in my community.