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Sponsor Testimony  
Senate Bill 58  
Ohio House Insurance Committee  
May 10, 2023

Chairman Lampton, Vice Chair Barhorst, Ranking Member Miranda, and members of the House Insurance Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 58.

This bill is a reintroduction of Senate Bill 293 from the previous General Assembly. This legislation will protect our Second Amendment rights by ensuring that no Ohioan will be required to possess or purchase firearm liability insurance or pay a fee for the possession of a firearm, parts, components, ammunition, or a knife.

Across the country, different measures have passed in an effort to infringe on the right to keep and bear arms. Last year in California, the San Jose City Council voted to pass a mandate that would require all gun owners to pay an annual fee as well as obtain liability insurance for owning a firearm.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/mayor-and-city-council/mayor-s-office/our-work/public-safety/gun-harm-reduction>

In December, the New Jersey Governor signed a bill into law that requires those with a Concealed Carry permit to purchase firearm liability insurance.<sup>2</sup> In addition to this new law requiring the purchase of this insurance, permit applicants must now attain four endorsements by non-relatives, be interviewed by law enforcement, pay \$200—up from \$50—and carry documentation of liability insurance while carrying a concealed firearm.

We want to ensure that such infringements on the Second Amendment do not happen here in Ohio. The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution clearly states: “The right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.” Additionally, the same sentiment is addressed in the Ohio Constitution: “The people have the right to bear arms for their defense and security.”

The Second Amendment and the Ohio Constitution protect our God-given right to defend our lives and the lives of those we love. Measures such as those in California and New Jersey infringe on this constitutional right by putting undue burden and obstacles in the way of law-abiding gun owners.

Thank you again for your attention to this important matter. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/white-collar-and-criminal-law/nj-requires-some-gun-owners-to-buy-insurance-limits-carrying>