



OHIO HOUSE INSURANCE COMMITTEE

October 11, 2023

**Written Opponent Testimony
Senate Bill 58**

Chair Lampton, Vice Chair Barhorst, Ranking Member Miranda, and members of the Ohio House Insurance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written opponent testimony regarding the Ohio Municipal League's position on Senate Bill 58.

This bill is a violation of Ohio's constitutionally granted municipal home rule authority by prohibiting cities and villages from enacting measures at the local level that would require an individual to secure firearm liability insurance or pay a fee related to the possession of firearms, their associated parts and components, and knives.

Regardless of one's position on guns or knives, this legislation prevents a municipality from enacting the wishes of their local voters on this important matter related to the safety of the community. Furthermore, it would allow for civil actions against Ohio's cities and villages, opening them up to frivolous legal challenges and costly expenses.

It is our deep concern that SB 58 would continue the steady erosion of home rule authority while exponentially expanding the size and scope of state government. The Ohio Constitution grants home rule authority to municipalities in recognition that a government closest to the people governs best, and each city and village should be able to serve and protect the interests of its residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 58. We urge for your opposition to this bill.

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League