

Opponent Testimony on House Bill 189
Ways and Means Committee
Submitted by: Wendy Oldaker

To the Chairman, Ranking Member, and Committee Members,

I am a resident, homeowner and voter in Stark Count, OH and I **oppose** HB 189.

Ever since the Sandy Hook shooting, the NRA has been telling us that “the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.” The idea that more "Good Guys" with guns will stop shootings by “Bad Guys” has been thoroughly debunked by research. We have 400 million guns in this country but we lead the world in gun deaths! Our gun deaths continue to climb at alarming rates *especially here in Ohio.*

HB 186 just further endangers Ohioans by giving special tax exempt status to gun purchases. Research consistently shows that states that have looser gun laws and higher rates of gun ownership have more gun violence. We already lose 1,702 people from guns in Ohio each year and gun violence is the leading cause of death of children in our state. (CDC Underlying Cause of Death, 2018-2021.)

Please stop pandering to the gun industry and listen to Ohio citizens who want fewer, not more, guns in our communities.

I urge you to reject HB189.

Thank you,
Wendy Oldaker