

House Ways And Means Committee  
Opposition Testimony on HB 189  
Submitted by: Pat Krummrich

Dear Chair Roemer, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Troy and members of the committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

I strongly oppose HB 189. Tax exemptions can be a useful tool to promote the public good. However, HB 189, will only promote more gun sales in Ohio which further endangers Ohio families and children.

**Research is clear. Where there are more guns there is more homicide. (1).**

Most Ohioans do not want to make Ohio “more friendly to guns.” We want a Family Friendly state! That’s why the only Proponent Testimonies (written or verbal) presented in support of HB 189 have been from Gun Industry Lobbyists and not Ohio voters. Perhaps its why the gun industry once again had to bring in a witness from Indiana to speak for them.

These gun lobbyists were very enthused about the approximately 900 jobs that they claimed MIGHT come to Ohio as a result of this bill. Ohio's unemployment rate was 3.3% in July 2023. This marks the lowest unemployment rate since 1976 when the series for reporting unemployment started. Ohio’s nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased to 5,639,200 in July, which is the highest payroll employment reported since the series started in 1990. (2) Ohio is not so desperate for jobs that it needs to buy them with the lives of our citizens and children.

Gun deaths and injuries cost Ohio at least \$22.3 billion each year, of which \$493.7 million is paid by taxpayers. (4) Yet gun lobbyists are trying to sell us the idea that attracting those 900 jobs will be a financial boon to our state. No wonder they work in sales!

I strongly recommend that you visit

<https://giffords.org/lawcenter/resources/scorecard/?scorecard=MS> to find many interactive research statistics on gun violence and what we can do to end it in our state.

Please listen to Ohio voters and reject HB 189.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Krummrich

1. Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (Literature Review)  
<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hicrc/firearms-research/guns-and-death/>
2. Ohio Dep't of Jobs and Family Services.  
<https://jfs.ohio.gov/about/communications/news/august18-employment-situation>
3. Everystat.org. Cost of gun violence: Ted R. Miller and Bruce Lawrence analysis of CDC fatal injury: 2019 and HCUP nonfatal injury: 2019.