

House Ways and Means Committee  
Opposition Testimony: HB 189  
Submitted by Monica Harmon

To the Chair, Ranking Member, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to House Bill 189.

My name is Monica Harmon. I am an Ohio homeowner, mother of two young children and a pediatric Speech Language Pathologist, employed by Akron Children's Hospital. I live in Jackson Township, a conservative suburban neighborhood.

I strongly oppose HB 189.

This bill is dangerous to Ohio families. It gives special status to the "rights" of gun owners but has dangerous consequences for our families. Gun violence is the leading cause of death of children in our state.(1) We already lose an average of 1,702 people from gun deaths in Ohio each year. Gun violence is the leading cause of death of children in our state.(2)

The gun lobby is the main driver of this bill. They testified that sales tax exemptions on guns would prove that our state is "Gun Friendly" and attract gun manufacturers and businesses to Ohio. Since gun deaths cost Ohio more than \$22 billion each year, of which \$493.7 million is paid by taxpayers, it hardly seems economically beneficial to have more guns manufactured and sold in our state. (4)

Reject HB 189!

Thank you,  
Monica Harmon

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1,2. Everystat.org. CDC Underlying Cause of Death, 2018-2021.

3. Jacquelyn C. Campbell, PhD, RN et al, Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships... Am J Public Health. 2003 July; 93(7): 1089-1097.

4. Everystat.org