

Opposition Testimony HB 189 From Joseph Blubaugh

Chairman, Ranking Member, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to HB189.

My name is Joseph Blubaugh and I am a resident of North Canton, a nice quiet town in Stark County. I strongly oppose HB 189.

At the second hearing for this bill, gun lobbyists claimed that its passage might lure several hundred jobs to Ohio. Just considering this bill from an economic standpoint, it doesn't make sense.

Consider this:

- Ohio currently has the lowest unemployment rate since 1976. Ohio's nonagricultural wage and payroll employment is currently the highest that it's ever reported since the series started in 1990. (1) Ohio is not in a job crisis that would justify risking the lives of our citizens.
- Gun deaths and injuries cost Ohio at least \$22 billion each year, of which \$493.7 million is paid by taxpayers. (2)
- The proposed tax exemption is designed to make Ohio "Gun Friendly", benefit the gun industry, and sell more guns.
- States with more guns and looser gun laws have more mass shootings, gun homicides and suicides. (3, 4)

All of the above means: HB 189 = A BAD DEAL for OHIOANS!

Respectfully,
Joseph Blubaugh

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1. Ohio Dep't of Jobs and Family Services.
<https://jfs.ohio.gov/about/communications/news/august18-employment-situation>
 2. Everytown.org
 3. Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (Literature Review)
<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hicrc/firearms-research/guns-and-death/>
 4. <https://www.bu.edu/antiracism-center/profile/michael-siegel/>