

Opposition Testimony HB 189
By Don Baird

To the Chair, Ranking Member, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to House Bill 51.

I am a retired Pastor of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ. I live with my wife in Stark County. I strongly oppose HB 189.

Research clearly shows that states that have looser gun laws and higher gun ownership have higher rates of gun homicide, suicide and mass shootings. (1) Presence of a gun in the home increases the risk of suicide by 3 times.(2) Gun violence is the leading cause of death for Ohio teens and children.(3)

I fail to understand why you are prioritizing the rights of gun owners over the right to life and safety of average Ohioans. This bill is mainly designed to increase gun sales and make more profit for the gun industry, all at the cost of Ohioan's lives.

Reject HB 189

Thank you,
Don Baird

- 1) <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hicrc/firearms-research/guns-and-death/>
- 2) [Andrew Anglemeyer](#), [Tara Horvath](#), [George Rutherford](#). The accessibility of firearms and risk for suicide and homicide victimization among household members: a systematic review and meta-analysis.
- 3) Children/teen deaths: CDC, WONDER