



Buckeye Firearms Association

Memo

**To: Senate General Government Committee
Chairman Rulli, Senators Rob McColley and Theresa Gavarone**

**From: Rob Sexton, Special Consultant
Dean Rieck, Executive Director**

Date: March 28, 2023

Re: Support for SJR 2

Mr. Chairman, members of the Senate General Government Committee, we are here to testify on behalf of Buckeye Firearms Association (BFA) in strong support of Senate Joint Resolution 2. BFA is Ohioans premier defender of the right to keep and bear arms.

Article 1 Section 4 of the Ohio Constitution is our state's version of the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution. It reads, "The people have the right to bear arms for their defense and security..." This language is the foundation of the ability of Ohioans to defend themselves and their families. It is this language that must be struck, weakened or somehow countermanded, in order for national gun control groups to roll back the many freedoms that this General Assembly has made clear these past 20 years.

It is this freedom that wealthy gun control advocates like New York Billionaire Mike Bloomberg would most like to target. Ballot issues have become increasingly utilized by wealthy interests in Ohio and across the country. With their ability to outspend any grassroots coalition of Ohioans, people like Bloomberg and organizations he finances, are able to rewrite our constitution, erasing freedoms that actual Ohioans support.

The citizen initiative process was created to provide a voice to the people, not to be the tool for wealthy outsiders use to take away our freedoms. That is why it is essential that Ohio raise the bar for passage of a proposed amendment to the constitution to 60%. Changes to the statute and referenda would remain at a simple majority, while providing important protection for the document that enshrines our very freedom.

Without this protection, it is not hard to see the pathway that will be utilized by gun control groups to eliminate firearms preemption, the right to carry a firearm, the right to defend our very homes and more. Meanwhile these same groups will pursue gun registration, and other restrictions on firearms ownership. And all of this will take place during a time when our government has lost control of our cities. Criminals walk free after committing felonies. Violent crime is on the rise while our law enforcement struggles to do its job due to political pressure. Now more than ever, our fundamental right to defend our own lives must be protected. And chief among these protections is ensuring that only the most vital issues result in a change to

the Ohio Constitution. That is why Buckeye Firearms Association strongly supports SJR2, and asks for quick approval by this committee.