

Testimony on Senate Bill 58

Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee

Date: March 13, 2023

Submitted by: Michelle Lee Heym

Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in strong opposition to SB 58.

My name is Michelle Lee Heym. I moved to Powell, Ohio in August 2015 from West Simsbury, Connecticut. During the Sandy Hook School shooting on December 14, 2012, my 3 girls were 10, 8, and 5. They were on lockdown at Central School before "lockdown" was a common term, and they don't even remember, but I will never be the same. I am calling on lawmakers, I am asking you to please oppose SB58 because if enacted, this law, will allow more criminals to have one more tool in their toolbox, by allowing them to not have to pay for insurance and be a public safety threat to all Ohioans.

Please oppose SB58 as it will make gun ownership easier and more accessible in Ohio. We know more access to guns increases gun violence. I oppose Senate Bill 58, that will prohibit requiring firearms liability insurance or certain fees. Insurance is required when a guarantee of compensation for a specified loss, damage, illness or death in return for payment of a premium. Why would you make access to a lethal weapon easier? Normal people get insurance when they buy a car, for protecting themselves against sickness or injury, for their dental needs. It is almost comical to think one would not buy liability insurance when purchasing a firearm. This will only make it easier to access guns. We do not need looser gun laws in Ohio. Ohio already has some of the loosest gun laws in the country, with Stand Your Ground, permitless carry, allowing an individual to purchase a gun with no background check, no license or permit and no training and a law that will now arm teachers with minimal training. Data shows states that have laws like this have an increase in gun violence. Ohioans have asked our lawmakers for common sense gun legislation not less responsible gun ownership, as this bill will encourage.

Ohioans, and gun owners want mandatory background checks, safe storage laws, extreme risk protection orders that will take guns away from those that are going to hurt themselves or others, not prohibiting requiring insurance or certain fees.

Please vote No! on SB58. Thank you for listening and considering my testimony.