

Testimony Opposing SB 58
Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee
April 18, 2023

Chairman Hoagland, and members of the Veterans and Public Safety Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My Name is Sandra Fiehrer. I'm a mother, a gun owner and a community volunteer in District 26. This is another bill from the gun lobby wishlist and I oppose it because it will exempt dangerous firearms in Ohio from accountability.

Gun owners in Ohio are not required to be trained or register their guns. In many cases they don't have to complete a background check. They openly carry long guns in the public square without safety measures. Gun owners in Ohio can carry in schools and don't have the duty to retreat anymore. SB 58 seeks to keep them from assuming liability for their firearms. In the past few days, we've learned about 16 year old Ralph Yarl in Kansas City, who was shot through a door and on the lawn for ringing a doorbell at the wrong house. The shooter invoked Stand Your Ground. Then 20 year old Kaylin Gillis in NY, was fatally shot in a car that pulled into the wrong driveway to turn around. Nobody exited that car. You want to pass a law banning liability insurance requirements for gun owners who are untrained, unregulated and shooting kids at the front door or cars turning around in driveways? Have you lost your minds? Or is this what the lobbyists drafted for you?

Guns are the leading cause of death for children & teens in America. There are more guns than people in the U.S. Ohio is a hotbed of anti-government extremism where republican legislators have continued to support the proliferation of unsafe guns.

Listen to Ohioans who have asked you repeatedly to do something!

We urge you to hold firearm owners accountable for the death and injury caused. We need more gun safety laws in this state: universal background checks, extreme risk prevention laws and safe storage. Right now, the Ohio Republican legislative body has earned the "Guns Over People" label. You can change that by ending your extreme stance on guns.

Please do not pass SB58. It's not going to make Ohioans safe. Thank you for your time and consideration.