

Testimony on HB68
Public Safety Committee
Date: June 16, 2025
Submitted by: Joan Calem

Chair Abrams, Vice Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present opposition testimony to HB68. My name is Joan Calem, and I am a concerned citizen from Columbus, OH.

I am writing in opposition to HB68. Once again, this bill is trying to overturn the few sensible gun laws that Ohio still has, one of which is to prohibit guns in courthouses and other public spaces, like schools, daycare, hospitals and airports, etc. HB68 is asking "To amend sections 2923.123 and 2923.14 of the Revised Code to allow a concealed handgun licensee to carry a handgun in a building or structure that is not a courthouse but in which a courtroom is located in specified circumstances and to permit a nonresident of Ohio to obtain statutory relief from firearms disability based on an Ohio conviction, guilty plea, or delinquent child adjudication."

Why? Why would anyone want a gun anywhere near a building that sometimes serves as a courthouse. While court may not be in session in this building constantly, the people who work for the court system may still be there. Ohio already has an unfortunate history of judges being targeted, and some have even been killed by someone unhappy with the sentence that they or a family member received. Why would we get rid of a law created to keep people safe. As you all know, anybody can buy a gun in Ohio, with no background check, no training, and no safety license. Just because a court is not in session does not mean the building is not still a sensitive place.

One of the bills thrown out of previous House considerations was HB455. Doctors, nurses, teachers, shop owners, and regular citizens wrote to the committee and Speaker of the House because this bill would have allowed permitless concealed carry in sensitive places, At that time the citizens of Ohio expressed their dismay at this ruling, and it was shot down. A similar bill was offered in 2023 with HB272, which also did not pass, for the same reasons.

Additionally, HB68 would allow a non-resident the right to bear arms in Ohio when they are forbidden to do so in their home state because of an Ohio conviction, guilty plea, or delinquent child adjudication. Why? If they have been forbidden to carry a gun in their home state, there is likely a reason. Why would the Ohio legislature choose to make Ohioans less safe in order to allow a non-resident to carry a gun in Ohio when they are not allowed to in their own state? Once again, this makes no sense at all.

Please vote no for this reckless bill that is repeating past bills that also did not pass. This one also doesn't make any sense.

Sincerely,

Joan Calem