

Committees

Community Revitalization
Public Safety



Committees:

Children and Human Services
Small Business

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Thank you, Chair Abrams, Vice Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Public Safety Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Resolution 148 alongside my joint sponsor, Representative Deeter.

This resolution reaffirms our constitutional rights under the Second Amendment while highlighting the personal responsibility that comes with those rights. HR 148 promotes Ohioans' safe storage and securement of firearms, not through mandates or penalties but through awareness, education, and community partnership.

As legislators and Ohioans, we witness heartbreaking incidents that could have been prevented with simple precautions, a lock, a safe, a moment of care. You just heard from my joint sponsor how, in recent weeks, a two-year-old accessed a loaded gun in the nightstand and accidentally fatally shot his pregnant mother in the back.

In my district during September of this year, a 1-year-old was killed in Cleveland after being accidentally shot by a 3-year-old sibling. In August 2024, a 2-year-old child in Euclid died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound after finding an unsecured weapon. This happened just months after a 3-year-old in Brunswick, Ohio, was accidentally shot and killed when a gun fell from a workbench.

As mentioned before, this is not just an issue within our District; it also affects other Representatives.

To illustrate this, we have provided other incidents for your reference:

On October 9th in Butler County, a 16-year-old was hospitalized after an accidental shooting involving a stolen handgun. <https://www.wlwt.com/article/liberty-township-police-investigation-dutchland-pkwy/68962822>

On October 3rd in Hamilton County, a 5-year-old girl was hospitalized after being accidentally shot by her brother. <https://www.whio.com/news/local/5-year-old-ohio-girl-believed-be-accidentally-shot-by-brother-sheriffs-office-says/NWUVWB2BIVA5TE7QP2USNXJZ4U/>

On September 25th in Toledo, a 14-year-old was accidentally shot and killed while playing video games with a friend. <https://www.13abc.com/2025/09/25/juvenile-hospitalized-after-being-shot-head/>

On September 23rd in Mansfield, a teen was accidentally shot in the face while playing with a gun with his friend. <https://cwcolumbus.com/news/local/mansfield-ohio-juvenile-shot-face-north-lake-park-police-say-non-life-threatening-injuries-suspect-custody-firearm-accidental-shooting-friday>

On September 23rd in Columbus, a 3-year-old died after accidentally shooting himself. <https://www.10tv.com/article/news/local/southeast-columbus-shooting-kodiak-drive/530-de7be693-07b7-4fb9-82f4-5c60771fcd03>

These are not partisan stories; they are tragedies affecting families in every part of our state.

Firearms are now the leading cause of death among children and teens in this country. Safe storage practices can make a difference. They protect kids from accidental injuries, reduce theft, and prevent misuse during emergencies.

House Resolution 148 does not restrict ownership or establish new laws. It's a call to action, encouraging Ohioans to voluntarily take sensible steps to keep firearms away from the wrong people. It also fosters cooperation among state and local agencies, law enforcement, health professionals, and community groups to enhance access to safety tools and information.

Collaborations such as the **41** Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library (CHPL) branches offering free gun locks. These locks are distributed in partnership with the Cincinnati Police Department and the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. You don't need to show identification or proof of gun ownership. The program is "no questions asked." Its goal is to promote *safe firearm storage* by making locks easily accessible. The locks support safe storage practices, such as keeping guns unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition, they don't replace secure safes or more advanced locking systems.

I want to reiterate the words of my joint sponsor, who summarized our commitments to this issue.

By adopting this resolution, we affirm our commitment to upholding the Second Amendment while protecting our neighbors, children, and communities. Safe storage is not about restrictions; it's about respect, respect for life, liberty, and the responsibilities that come with both.

Thank you, Chair Abrams, Vice Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas, and committee members, for your time and dedication to promoting responsible gun ownership in our state. We are available for any questions.

