



Representative Kellie Deeter
House District 54

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

This resolution protects our constitutional rights but promotes personal responsibility by encouraging Ohioans to safely store and secure firearms. The Second Amendment affirms the right to keep and bear arms, but with that right comes a duty to ensure that firearms are stored safely, especially when children or other unauthorized individuals may have access.

Every year, we hear heartbreaking stories of unintentional shootings, often involving young people, where a tragedy could have been prevented with simple precautions like a gun safe, a lock box, or a trigger lock. In my district, in 2023, tragedy did strike, when a two-year old accessed a loaded gun in the nightstand and accidentally fatally shot his pregnant mother in the back. Attempts made to save both mother and baby via cesarean section were unsuccessful. I don't believe this is a partisan issue. It is a matter of responsibility, safety, and education.

As a healthcare provider, I've seen the aftermath of injuries caused by firearms. Even one preventable injury is one too many. Safe storage practices protect children from accidental harm, reduce firearm theft, and may even keep guns from being misused during times of personal crisis.

Importantly, this resolution does not mandate new laws or penalties. It is a call to action, encouraging Ohioans to take voluntary, common-sense steps to secure their firearms and ammunition when not in use. It recognizes that education, awareness, and community partnerships are the best tools we have for fostering a culture of responsibility around firearm ownership.

The resolution urges collaboration among state and local agencies, community organizations, and public-health partners to promote awareness. Programs like local law-enforcement lock-distribution drives or firearm-safety education through schools and sportsmen's groups have shown real success. These partnerships respect both safety and freedom, two values that I prioritize, and believe should be a priority for Ohio.

By adopting this resolution, we affirm that we can uphold the Second Amendment while still protecting our neighbors, our children, and our communities. Safe storage is not about restriction, it's about respect: respect for life, for liberty, and for the responsibilities that come with both.

Thank you for your attention and for your commitment to promoting responsible gun ownership in our state. I would be happy to answer any questions.