



**HOUSE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 273 | MARCH 3, 2026  
Sarah Biehl, Policy Director**

Chair Adams, Vice Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the House Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on Senate Bill 273.

As a bipartisan coalition of mayors in Ohio's largest cities and suburbs, public safety is our highest priority. Public safety expenses make up the lion's share of our cities' budget expenditures, and we invest significantly in our public safety forces, equipment, and infrastructure.

As part of our investments in public safety, our cities and local police departments are committed to doing everything we can to address gun violence and prevent gun deaths. Although much of our focus as cities is on preventing and responding to gun-related crime, we know that the majority of gun deaths in Ohio are deaths by suicide. Moreover, too many of the firearms used to commit crimes in our cities are lost or stolen from law-abiding owners. Because of these two facts, we share a deep desire to ensure that law-abiding gun owners in our cities have every opportunity to secure their firearms when necessary.

For these reasons, we strongly support SB 273. Providing Ohioans with an easy, secure, and local option to ensure that their firearms are out of reach temporarily may mean the difference between life and death for a family member or loved one experiencing a mental health crisis. It would also ensure that a gun owner's firearms are safely stored in a secure location - a law enforcement agency or licensed firearms dealer - where they will be much less likely to be stolen, lost, or otherwise unavailable when the gun owner wants to reclaim their property.

Many of our cities have devoted resources to ensuring our residents have access to safe storage devices in their homes, including lock boxes, gun locks, and other safety devices. But sometimes, it is safest to store a gun outside of the home. This bill creates options that make that choice available to more Ohioans.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote to advance SB 273 and support its passage. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.