

## **Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 273 (Keep Them Safe Act)**

Ohio Senate Committee  
Attn: Chairwoman Abrams, Vice Chairman Miller,  
Ranking Members, and Members of the Committee  
Ohio Statehouse  
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Chairwoman Abrams, Vice Chairman Miller, ranking members, and members of the committee,

My name is **Sharon M. Scott**, and I live in **Willoughby Hills, Ohio**. I am a volunteer with **Sandy Hook Promise**.

I am a retired teacher who worked with both general education and special education students, and I served for ten years on the Willoughby–Eastlake City Schools Board of Education, which serves nearly 10,000 children. During that time, I also served for several years as vice president of the board.

For decades, my life's work has centered on children — protecting them, educating them, and doing everything possible to help them grow up safe and supported. I am also a parent and a grandparent, and like so many families across Ohio, I want nothing more than to know our children are safe in their homes, schools, and communities.

I am writing today in support of **Senate Bill 273, the Keep Them Safe Act**.

During my years in education and school leadership, I learned that tragedies rarely come without warning. Often, there are quiet moments when someone knows they need help, but they are unsure where to turn or fear the consequences of asking. When those moments are missed, the outcomes can be devastating.

Senate Bill 273 creates a compassionate, responsible option during those critical times. It allows individuals to temporarily and voluntarily store firearms safely, without fear of punishment or stigma. This bill focuses on prevention, trust, and doing the right thing before something irreversible happens.

This legislation does not take away rights. Instead, it recognizes that responsible ownership includes knowing when additional safeguards are needed — particularly during times of stress, illness, or major life changes. SB 273 makes it easier for families to choose safety, and that matters deeply to me as an educator and as a grandmother.

Ohio has an opportunity to lead with common sense and care. Senate Bill 273 reflects our shared values of responsibility, community, and protecting our children.

I respectfully urge you to advance Senate Bill 273 out of committee.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration of this important legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

**Sharon M. Scott**  
Willoughby Hills, Ohio