



Representative Kellie Deeter
House District 54

Chair Roemer, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 330, legislation that will authorize a sales tax holiday for firearm safety and storage devices.

This proposal is a rare point of unity in the broader discussion surrounding firearms. Regardless of one's stance on gun policy, we can all agree that responsible firearm ownership and safe storage protects lives. By making safety and storage devices more affordable and accessible, this bill encourages Ohioans who own firearms to store them safely, protecting themselves, their families, and their communities.

House Bill 330 would create a sale and use tax exemption for firearm safety and storage devices during the months of March, April, November, and December. These months were selected because they align with both the tax return and holiday shopping seasons, when retailers experience their highest firearm sales volumes, coinciding with the months with the highest firearm background checks. The timing increases visibility and participation, encouraging safe storage purchases when families are already budgeting for larger purchases.

Ohio would join a growing list of states, including Tennessee, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, that have enacted similar tax incentives for firearm safety. Their experience shows that such incentives can promote responsible ownership without imposing mandates or new regulatory burdens.

According to the Legislative Service Commission's fiscal analysis, House Bill 330 would have a modest impact on state and local revenues. The sales and use tax exemption on firearm safety and storage devices would depend on purchasing behavior, but at its upper bound, it is estimated to reduce state revenue by up to \$2.7 million per year, with approximately \$2.6 million borne by the General Revenue Fund and about \$45,000 each to the Local Government Fund and Public Library Fund. County and transit authority sales tax revenues could decrease by an additional \$700,000 per year. While these figures represent a very small fraction of total sales-tax collections, I recognize that they still carry budgetary implications for both the state and local governments.

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony of HB 330, and I would be happy to try and answer questions that you may have.