



Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence

Federalism Committee

Chairman Becker, Vice Chairman Stoltzfus, Ranking Member Miller and all committee members.

The Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence opposes HB 248 being substituted with a bill that takes in so many issues in the 5th hearing without public access to the substitute bill.

We were able to look at the summary and were surprised to see such a catch all bill of this magnitude in the lame duck session. Understanding that as legislators you want to see progress on the bills that you support, this bill is including many of the pro-gun bills that have not been considered in other committees.

Especially problematic is the fact that immunity is being taken away from business owners that want to keep a gun free space. If a business owner or any place of business chooses the decision to prohibit firearms they should not be punished with a threat of lawsuits if a person with a gun trespasses (because they have entered when prohibited) and causes a death and injury. Along with also taking immunity away from places that post a no gun sign this bill gives immunity to schools and places of higher education so that they are being coerced into thinking they must allow firearms for fear of their institutions being involved in a lawsuit that costs them a prohibited amount.

To add to the permissiveness, the bill wants to eliminate the duty to retreat and gives permission to anyone that has a legal right to be in a private business to use lethal force! This is a Stand Your Ground provision for private business. Should employees accept the increase in this dangerous policy?

All of this seems to prevent their freedom to decide on safety.

A number of places in the bill remove or reduce penalties if a person breaks current prohibitions. It also dictates that law enforcement must not destroy firearms and gives some people that are carrying loaded weapons in a place that serves alcohol permission to drink.

Expanding preemption by including accessories and attachments wants to make sure only the general assembly has any power to regulate firearms.

We are concerned that any of this is a priority when Covid and gun violence are a public health crises. We ask you to vote no on this substitute bill.

Toby Hoover
Founder and Survivor