

**Chairman Becker and Members of the Ohio House of Representatives Federalism Committee,**

Good Afternoon,

My name is Erick Bellomy and I'm a resident from Columbus Ohio. I'm a gun violence survivor, gun violence prevention advocate and gun owner. I'm testifying today in opposition to HB248, a bill which would change the minimum age to acquire a concealed weapons license (18-21), allows people to carry a deadly weapon in a school safety zone, prohibits schools from disciplining employees who carry a deadly weapon on the premises, and allows Stand Your Ground provisions for businesses, it's employees and customers.

There's no doubt that gun violence in Ohio and the rest of the country has gone up dramatically in 2020. Records are being broke in Columbus, Chicago, and in many other cities across the nation. In Cincinnati, 4 children were shot in a mass shooting, in Columbus a record breaking amount of teen homicides and shootings happening across the city.

Why would we take steps back and allow young adults the opportunity to get a CCW when we know that right now, we have a huge gun violence problem when it comes to teens and young adults? This is dangerous and will cause more families to be ripped apart forever— lowering the age to get a ccw, lowers the age to have a gun. Lowering the age to have/purchase a gun equals more guns on the streets. You don't want this bill, I don't want this bill and everyone who is testifying today in opposition to this bill don't want this.

This bill is a disaster waiting to happen, and the consequences will be forever lasting especially for the families of the victims of homicides, which I know all too well. I urge you to please vote NO to HB 248

Erick Bellomy