

Testimony on House Sub Bill 248

House Federalism Committee

Submitted by Mimi Karon

Chairman Becker, Vice Chair Stoltzfus, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to provide my testimony in opposition to House Sub Bill 248. My name is Mimi Karon and I am a concerned citizen and mother of two.

My youngest child is an 18 year old boy who would be eligible to legally obtain a concealed weapons licence and purchase a handgun should a vote be passed on Sub HB 248. I am a proud mom and like all mothers, I believe my children are incredible people. My son is well-adjusted, social, intelligent and kind. He has good judgement and a solid moral compass *for an eighteen year old*. By that, I mean he is still learning, growing and developing. Just as he should be. And he makes mistakes and is learning from them. As all eighteen year olds should be permitted to do. We should want eighteen year olds to be able to make mistakes and learn from them so that when they are adults and the stakes are higher they have developed the skills needed to be law-abiding citizens contributing to the good of this world. Now you are putting a weapon in some of these kids' hands, giving them the opportunity to make a permanent, life altering mistake. Lawmakers should be focusing on legislation that helps our kids grow up to live full, healthy happy lives. That is part of your job. So I ask you to take the time, as elected officials, to base legislation on research, data and proven policies that keep kids safe, such as background checks and red flag laws. Not legislation that is backed by research telling us that gun violence, suicide and unintentional shootings are going to increase.

My son is a senior in high school. He is overscheduled and maxed out academically, like many of our highschoolers today. When he has time to decompress, he likes to hang out with his friends (now masked and socially distanced thanks to the mishandling of leadership with regard to Covid 19). I don't want him burdened with worry about someone showing up with a concealed handgun. I cannot possibly imagine what that fear and stress could feel like as a high schooler or even college student. The normal stress and struggles in life today that high schoolers face is enormous. It is bad enough that they have active shooter drills. Recent studies have reflected the trauma and anxiety that these drills are plaguing kids today. And now, our elected officials entrusted to keep our children safe want to add a piece of legislation where they have to be concerned about friends carrying concealed weapons and trusting these friends to make smart

decisions. If any of you came to my house you would see these eighteen year olds in a social setting. They are funny, endearing and interesting. But you wouldn't want one of them with access to a gun. I assure you. You'd want to do everything in your power to keep them from such access.

I have touched on just one piece of House Sub Bill 248 that I find incredibly alarming. If your goal as state representatives is to make Ohioans safer (as I assume it is) then Sub HB 248 needs to stop here now. I don't need to be an expert to know that the following components in this bill will increase gun violence in our state. I simply need to enlist my own common sense. Or do my due diligence as you should be doing and review what current research tells us: that more guns in schools, universities and colleges, businesses and bars are going to dramatically increase gun deaths in our state. And that is just what this outrageously irresponsible house bill will do. I implore you to not let this bill move any further. But if it should come to a vote, please oppose it.