

Testimony on House Bill 248  
Federalism Committee

Submitted by:  
Kristine Woodworth

Chair Becker, Vice Chair Stoltzfus, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to HB 248.

I am a retired small business owner who raised two children in Cincinnati. My husband has operated a small business in Cincinnati for 40 years. I was not born in Ohio, but chose to move here after college, for a good job. I spent my entire adulthood here, and now in retirement I have the good fortune of being able to spend winters in a warmer climate. So I am watching this lame duck session of the General Assembly from afar - and Ohio does not look good from here.

During a time when a global pandemic ravages our state and the stench of corruption hangs in the Capitol, it pains me to see our representatives hard at work on a bill that serves only the interests of a tiny, extremist gun lobby. There is nothing in this Substitute bill that would make life better for people who live in Ohio. Allowing guns in more places by more people, while increasing incentives for these people to open fire - none of these provisions solve a problem. Rather, they are just bound to increase the already grim toll of gun violence in Ohio.

Further, the method by which this bill is being introduced seems intentionally designed to conceal the provisions of this potential law from Ohio citizens and the lawmakers themselves. Replacing a simple, six-page bill about antique handguns with a complex 173 page compendium of gun lobby pet bills, with little notice during lame duck is surely not conducive to thoughtful analysis and debate. The citizens of Ohio deserve better than these bad faith efforts to sneak looser gun laws past us with little consideration, publicity or debate.

I have loved my time in Ohio, but as the legislature grows ever more extreme and nonresponsive to the needs of our citizens I can see that my time as an Ohioan may be coming to an end. I am lucky. I have choices about where to live, and I will choose to reside in a state that takes the safety and health of its citizens more seriously than it takes the rantings of extremists. I will choose to live and pay taxes in a state where the freedom of its citizens to live in peace is what lawmakers strive to expand.

I urge you to oppose this bill.

Kristine Woodworth

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: November 17, 2020

Name: Kristine Woodworth

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (If Applicable):

Position/Title:

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes  No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 248

Specific Issue:

Are you testifying as a: Proponent \_\_\_\_\_ Opponent  Interested Party \_\_\_\_\_

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require?

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

I oppose House Bill 248.

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