

Testimony on House Bill 248
Federalism Committee

Submitted by:
Laura Irvin

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.

My name is Laura Irvin and I am a resident of NE Ohio and a mother of two. I strongly oppose HB 248 which would lower the minimum age to acquire a concealed weapons license from 21 to 18 years of age. Minimum age laws prevent young people and those around them from falling prey to preventable gun violence including suicide. I was only 18 when my friend died by gun suicide. My daughter had just turned 18 when her friend texted her and asked her to call his sister to ask about him. A few minutes after that text, the young man died by gun suicide. We need to make it more difficult for teenagers to gain access to firearms, not encourage them to use weapons to hurt themselves and others. This is an extremely dangerous bill. Ohioans have been asking Gov. DeWine and the legislature to Do Something about gun violence - this bill does the opposite. Anyone who votes for this bill will have blood on their hands.

The method being used to pass this bill is 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 am urging the committee to vote against HB 248.

Laura Irvin

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: November 17, 2020

Name: Laura Irvin

Are you representing: Yourself Organization _____

Organization (If Applicable):

Position/Title:

Address: 221 Elm Street

City: Oberlin State: Ohio Zip:44074

Best Contact Telephone: Email: Laura.irvin1959@att.net

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.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.