

Testimony on House Bill 248  
Federalism Committee

Submitted by:  
Laura Robertson-Boyd

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 Robertson-Boyd. I am a resident of Bexley, Ohio.

As the parent of two college students who attend school at Ohio's public universities, I am deeply concerned that HB 248 would force guns on college campuses by prohibiting public universities from restricting concealed carry among students. There is no evidence that allowing guns on campuses reduces crime or makes campuses safer (<https://everytownresearch.org/solution/guns-on-campus/>).

Furthermore, HB 248 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 and most importantly - suicide

(<https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/who-can-have-a-gun/minimum-age/>). According to the Ohio Department of Health, suicide is the second leading cause of death among Ohioans ages 15-34

(<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/media-center/odh-news-releases/ohio-suicide-demographics-trends-report>), and half of all suicides in Ohio are by gun

(<https://efsgv.org/state/ohio/>). So far in 2020, 61 children have been killed or injured by guns in Ohio

(<https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/query/a1dbeece6-1434-49fe-88f5-3c8316431f0c/map>). We must do better to protect our children from gun violence and gun suicide, not make it easier for them to access guns.

Lastly, I want to express my deep concern about the method being used to advance this legislation: It seems intentionally designed to conceal the provisions of this bill 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 during a lame duck session 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. The majority of Ohioans have been asking lawmakers to #DoSomething to reduce gun violence since the horrific mass shooting in Dayton on August 4, 2019. Introducing this omnibus sub-bill shows Ohioans that you are not listening to constituents' concerns and have no regard for their safety.

I urge you to show care and consideration for the safety of your constituents by voting no on HB 248.

Laura Robertson-Boyd

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: November 17, 2020

Name: Laura Robertson-Boyd

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

Organization (If Applicable):

Position/Title:

Address: 921 S. Remington Rd.

City: Columbus State: Ohio Zip:43209

Best Contact Telephone: Email: chefrb@gmail.com

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.*