

Testimony on House Bill 248  
Federalism Committee

Submitted by:  
Sarah Krieg

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 Sarah Krieg, and I am an Ohio resident and a voter. I am voicing my opposition to HB 248. This bill contains several worrisome and dangerous provisions concerning firearms. HB 248 would allow more people to carry a weapon in a school safety zone and reduce penalties for concealed carry violations in a school safety zone. It also prohibits the restriction of concealed carry on college campuses. Both of these school-related provisions will increase the likelihood of gun violence on school grounds. This bill also reduces the age required to obtain a concealed carry permit from 21 to 18. Additionally, this bill contains a "Stand Your Ground" provision that removes duty to retreat from a business. Such provisions statistically increase gun violence, as well as impact communities of color disproportionately.

All of these firearm-related provisions are unnecessary and dangerous. The city of Columbus just broke the record for the number of homicides in a single year. Gun violence is rampant in our city and our state. Nothing has been done to highlight gun safety in the time since the tragic mass shooting in Dayton. This legislature should be choosing to act on proven gun safety measures such as universal background checks and red flag laws. Ohio citizens deserve measured debate about gun reform, rather than a hurried push to pass provisions such as those in HB 248 that favor the gun lobby and other gun extremists.

I have a young child in school now, and I worry daily for her safety. In this era of surging Covid-19 cases, I ponder constantly how I can protect her better. More guns being allowed on school grounds, lowering the age of those who can acquire gun licenses, and racist Stand Your Ground policies are all frightening to me as a parent. I already have enough to worry about in these uncertain times. Looser gun laws should not be adding to my burden. Please vote against HB 248. Thank you for your consideration.

Sarah Krieg

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: November 17, 2020

Name: Sarah Krieg

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.

*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.*