

Representative John Becker: Chair.
Committee on Federalism.

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Wednesday, December 2, 2020
2:00pm.

Oppose House Bill No. 248.

After thoroughly reading the House Bill 248 summary, I started to cry, and I could not get out of my mind and spirit the destruction and grief this bill will further cause to my community and many others here in Ohio. I am a Wellness Advocate in the city of Cleveland, and my community and surrounding areas are riddled with crime, mainly gun violence.

We are living in a time where civil and racial unrest is a major issue along with a virus that is killing at a rapid pace. Stress and tension are high, people are sick and tired of being sick and tire. Changing the minimum age to acquire concealed weapons license is not the answer.

In the city of Cleveland alone, everyday there is a death resulting from a gunshot wound, eastside and westside. Every week there is a vigil for someone's child, that was murdered by gun violence. Each time I am consoling a Mother or Father, it breaks my heart, imagine the anguish and pain they are experiencing.

Last month, I had a young cousin killed by a jealous person in raged by possibility of infidelity, the hurt and anguish on my relative face to know her son is gone, she nor my family will never be the same. Next a three-year-old child shot by accident in his home by another child, and the list goes on. Even with education of gun safety, this will not stop human nature, or curiosity.

An Eighteen years old is just too young to be allowed to acquire a concealed weapons license, it is an extremely dangerous concept, an oxymoron. You are playing Russian Roulette with the lives of many young adults, that are not mature enough and/or vulnerable to the negative influences that's plaguing us in society today. As adults we should be cognizant, of how House Bill 248 will create more problems in cities plague with gun violence.

In closing, I am a concerned resident, I am a mother, I am a grandmother, and family member that have experienced loss and I am grieving and learning to cope without our loved one, that was murdered, because a young person carried a gun, its wrong whether its legal or not.

As an advocate that works with mothers that have lost loved ones due to gun violence, I urge you to please take in consideration the problems this will cause to communities that are already fragile with health disparities, domestic violence, and other crimes. We must work on ending these problems, before allowing even more weapons in neighborhoods and homes.