

Testimony on House Bill 248
Federalism Committee

Submitted by:
Tom Herr

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 Tom Herr and I am a Columbus resident of over 30 years and a Franklin county voter. I am a Viet Nam era veteran who is concerned by the continued increase in gun violence since I have lived here. Since the Dayton mass shooting in August 2019 Ohioans have been asking our state legislature to do something about this ever increasing gun violence. The city of Columbus is on pace to set a new record for gun violence. HB 248 originally about antique handguns is really a compendium of gun lobby pet bills to sneak in looser gun laws. Attempting to lower the age of concealed carry from 21 to 18 will only allow young people to fall prey to preventable gun violence and suicide. To lessen extensive safety training in schools will worsen already dangerous situations in our schools. HB248 is an example of what The Columbus Dispatch labeled frivolous legislation, unnecessary and unimportant compared to all the bigger issues needing to be addressed. Back on June 21, 2013, The Columbus Dispatch had an article titled "Criminals use Ohio as a conduit for guns". This article pointed out because of Ohio's weak gun laws, guns purchased in Ohio were linked to crimes such as robbery and homicides in 36 other states. HB248 will continue to weaken Ohio's gun laws by going in the opposite direction of states who have strong gun laws and less gun violence. I urge this committee to dismiss this frivolous legislation.

Tom Herr

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: November 17, 2020

Name: Tom Herr

Are you representing: Yourself Organization _____

Organization (If Applicable):

Position/Title:

Address: 114 Electric Ave.

City: Westerville State: Ohio Zip:43081

Best Contact Telephone: Email: swimmuskie2@aol.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.