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Chairman Coley, Ranking Member Craig and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, I'm Chris Kershner Executive Vice President of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce represents over 2,400 business, which employ over 200,000 employees in a 10 county region in West Central Ohio.

- **August 4, 2019:** 9 Daytonians were killed and 17 others wounded. Shooting occurred on the front doorstep of a local Dayton business, which was 1,000 feet from the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce offices.



*Photo Credit: WYSO*

- **September 6, 2018:** 3 Cincinnatians were killed and 2 others wounded. Shooting occurred in the lobby of the 5/3<sup>rd</sup> Bank office tower in downtown Cincinnati.



*Photo credit: Fox 19Now*

These recent mass shootings happen in our businesses, in-front of our businesses and have lasting impacts on our businesses and employees. That's why I am here today to provide proponent testimony and echo the support of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce for Senate Bill 221.

Our businesses have told us that workplace safety and safe business operations is one of their top priorities. These shootings have a lasting impact on victims, victim's families, surviving employees and their employers.

A surviving victim of the Dayton shooting was physically not able to return to work after being shot. This person's employer paid their rent for them, so that would not get evicted until they could return to work. Additionally, survivors in Dayton are now suffering from PTSD and other emotional trauma that is affecting their ability to work. The Dayton Oregon District businesses have united and are funding efforts to get patrons back to the Oregon District and prove that the Oregon District is safe place to work and visit. These challenges are not unique to Dayton, but are echoed through the other 251 communities that have had similar shootings. However, Ohio can be unique by providing for greater protections for all that live and work here.

Enhancing the due-process to better protect our communities and to better protect individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues, is a positive action to making Ohio a safer place to live and work. Individuals with who could harm themselves or others, should have a process that can help prevent possible violent actions in the future. Additionally, enhancing background checks will provide the opportunity for increased protections and awareness for private transactions, while also respecting the private sales to appropriate individuals.

I encourage you to pass SB 221 and help Ohio be a leader in protecting our people and our businesses.

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.