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“Chairman Wiggam, Vice-Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee...”

I am here today as a single very concerned citizen. When I filled out the Witness Information Form, I had two choices: 1) was to state that I was representing an organization; 2) was to come as myself. But I am representing much more than myself; I am representing the rights of 332 million Americans, of which approximately 11.65 million reside in Ohio.

But since I submitted this testimony, I have been asked and have accepted the position of Chairman of Legislative Affairs for South Cuyahoga Sportsmen's Association. The group has 700 registered NRA Members located Primarily in Medina, Cuyahoga, Lorain, and Summit Counties.

What is HR 62 about? It is the preservation of the 2nd Amendment. It is protecting the rights of all US Citizens of which there are between 110-140 million firearm owners in the country with an estimated 4 million firearm owners in Ohio.

I thought that it was appropriate to use a quote from the first Republican President, and the 16th President of the United States of America, Abraham Lincoln. **“DON’T interfere with anything in the Constitution. That must be maintained, for it is the only safeguard of our Liberties”**

So here is the President that ended Slavery and he understood the importance of protecting our Constitution and our Bill of Rights. But today we see just the opposite. The Federal Government is doing everything possible to dismantle both of these governing documents.

What did some of our founders have to say about the second amendment? The following is taken from The Heritage Guide to the Constitution, Page 420, First Paragraph.

"and second, that the federal government should not have any authority at all to disarm the citizenry. The disagreement between the Federalist and the

Anti-Federalist was only over the narrower question of whether an armed populace could adequately assure the preservation of liberty".

So these great people understood the importance of having armed citizens. Today we see just the opposite coming out of some of our elected officials. They are doing everything they can to disarm the citizens of the country. There is a sad irony in some of the proposed laws coming out of both Washington, DC and State capitals.

Examples:

1) One suggested law is to put onerous taxes on the sale of firearms and ammunition. Who does this hurt the most, the individuals that are at the lower end of the income bracket! Meaning that they may not be able to defend themselves.

2) On Thursday, March 11, 2021, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Congressman David N. Cicilline (D-R.I.) introduced the "Assault Weapons Ban of 2021."

This proposed legislation bans the sale, transfer, manufacture, and importation of common AR-15 and AK-47 style semi-automatic rifles and standard-capacity magazines that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

You can't let these Extremely False Claims stop you from Seeing the Truth!

Ignoring the fact that handguns, not rifles, are used in the overwhelming majority of murders, bill sponsors claim the bill is designed to "make our cities and towns safer and more secure and help to reduce gun deaths." But that is clearly not true. The following was taken from the US Department of Justice * Federal Bureau of Investigation * Criminal Justice Information Services Division. The following is not a total list of different types of Homicides but is there to show you that rifles are not what they are portrayed.

Weapons Used in Homicides	Total
All Types of Rifles	364
Knives	1476
Blunt Object (Bats, Clubs, etc.)	397
Hands, Feet, Fists, etc.	600
Handguns	6368
Shotguns	200

With all the concern about assault weapons since the federal ban sunset in 2004, it is interesting to see what a small share of murders are committed with any type of rifle and how even that share has fallen over time. The percentage of firearm murders with rifles was 4.8% prior to the ban starting in September 1994, 4.9% from 1995 to 2004 when the ban was in effect, and just 3.6% after that (3.9% if you look at just the first ten years after the an ended).

Examples of Personal Protection with the use of Firearms. The next two examples are taken from the Buckeye Firearm's Website:

Hotel room occupant

A 70- year-old great-grandmother who had cracked her hotel room door to stay within earshot of two teens in the next room has been credited by police for potentially saving the lives of her friends and family. When a man with a gun burst into the room and announced a robbery, the woman responded by drawing her own gun, which she was licensed to carry, and shooting the armed robber. The criminal exited the hotel room and was found by police lying dead in the parking lot.

Elderly homeowner

A 78-year-old Cleveland homeowner was forced to open fire on a would-be teenage burglar. The home invasion happened around 11:30 p.m. T.Z., who is renovating his late mother's home so he can rent it out, was sleeping on the couch in the kitchen. When he awoke, he saw a flashlight beam and heard the door being pried open. When the door was pushed open, T.Z. fired one shot, striking his attacker in the chest. Police arrived on the scene and found the teenage suspect with a gunshot wound to the torso. He was armed with a crowbar and handgun. EMS transported the teen to the hospital where he underwent surgery. Reports say T.Z. has a valid concealed handgun license.

The following example was taken from the **American Hunter** magazine, January 2021 issue. Not all self-protection involves humans.

A man was out checking his trail cameras in Colville, Washington, on the evening of Oct. 7, 2020, when he found himself surrounded by a pack of wolves hovering about 30 yards away. As the wolves moved closer, he yelled to scare them off. Instead of retreating, however, they growled at him and showed their teeth. Luckily the man was carrying his Browning Rifle with him and was able to protect himself by shooting one of the animals in the chest, instantly killing it. When the other pack members started to retreat, he was able to escape and call the sheriff's office to report the incident. The Stevens County Sheriff's office contacted the

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, who dispatched a county wildlife specialist to the scene to investigate. Pictures from the cameras matched the man's story, and it was determined that the man acted out of self-defense.

The following is from the American Hunter magazine.

“Studies indicate that firearms are used more than 2 Million times a year for personal protection and that the presence of a firearm, without a shot being fired, prevents crime in many instances”.

What can be done to stop this Federal Government from this Overreach?

1) Enforce the 10th Amendment

Amendment X -The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

1. NULLIFICATION -Thomas Jefferson and James Madison first **formalized** the principles of nullification in the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions of 1798. While Jefferson called it “the rightful remedy” to federal overreach, Madison put it a different way, saying a state nullification specifically, but they didn’t create the idea. In fact, the strategies and principles date back to before the American Revolution. is “duty-bound” to interpose “to arrest the progress of the evil.” Jefferson and Madison were the first to propose.

We, the People, and the States have the Power to stop this government overreach and we Must use all remedies that we have a Legal Right to use.

Listen to our Founding Fathers, Abraham Lincoln, and Thomas Jefferson:

"and second, that the federal government should not have any authority at all to disarm the citizenry. The disagreement between the Federalist and the Anti-Federalist was only over the narrower question of whether an armed populace could adequately assure the preservation of liberty".

“DON’T interfere with anything in the Constitution. That must be maintained, for it is the only safeguard of our Liberties”

"The laws that forbid the carrying of arms are laws of such a nature. They disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes.... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man."

- Thomas Jefferson, *Commonplace Book* (quoting 18th-century criminologist Cesare Beccaria), 1774-1776

Please reflect on all of these quotes, but in particular that of Thomas Jefferson. If People are disarmed, could the 70-year-old Great Grandmother have been able to protect the Family and herself against a younger and armed Criminal? NO!!, If the 78-Year-old Gentleman from Cleveland had not been armed would he have been able to protect himself against a much younger and armed Criminal? NO! Could the 2,000,000 times a year that Firearms are used for personal protection happen if the Firearms are outlawed? NO, they could not!!!

Final Comment: many of the states and cities that have the strictest anti firearm laws also have some of the very worst homicide and shooting incidents in the Country. A Perfect Example is Chicago.

The 2nd Amendment is not just for the gun owners, but it is for all US citizens!

We have entrusted our rights with each and every one of you sitting here today. Prove to us that we have done the correct thing! Protect our 2nd Amendment!