

Testimony on House Bill 62

House State and Local Government Committee

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Submitted by:

Ann Morahan

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the committee:

Thank you for allowing my written testimony in opposition to House Bill 62.

My name is Ann Morahan. I have lived in Ohio for over 70 years and never have I seen so many destructive gun laws being presented by the Ohio Legislature. One would think that the gun lobby is influencing those who should be protecting us and making our lives better. Instead, this legislature seems hellbent on making our lives more difficult and putting all of us in danger!

HB 62 is a dangerous bill that jeopardizes public safety in Ohio. This bill contains vague language which could nullify any current or future federal gun laws and language which will encourage extremists to ignore common sense gun laws they personally disagree with. Is that your idea of giving power to the people, or only to the people with guns? Are you in favor of insurrection that happened January 6th or are you proud of the Proud Boys and others who sought to overturn our democracy?

This insane bill would expose Ohio law enforcement officers to costly lawsuits, court costs and even to the loss of employment for simply doing their job. Why are you trying to make their job harder? Isn't their job hard enough?????

Under this proposal, participating in federal taskforces, referring cases to federal law enforcement, or even asking for federal assistance in tracing the origin of crime guns could be against the law. Really???? That would not be helpful to me. Would it be helpful to you? What if a loved one was shot? Wouldn't you want all the resources available to solve the crime? Even if it was someone you didn't know, the criminal who shot him/her would be free to kill or inflict harm again. Shouldn't that person be caught? Why would you write a bill to stop the exchange of information?

If enacted, this bill would undermine the rule of law and send a false message to criminals that federal gun laws will not be enforced. This bill would also send a confusing message to law-abiding gun owners who may expose themselves to criminal liability or choose not to act to intervene when a loved one is in crisis believing that law enforcement will not help because of this law.

I recently received an invitation to join the N.R.A. This slick message signed by Wayne LaPierre states "NRA is the only national organization that can STOP GUN CONFISCATION". Guess what? No one I know wants gun confiscation. I ONLY WANT COMMON SENSE GUN REGULATION. This bill does nothing to help Ohioans but it does chip away at common sense gun laws and puts our law enforcement officials in danger. If their lives are in danger, so are our lives.

Under the U.S. Constitution's Supremacy Clause, federal laws are "the supreme law of the land" and any state law that conflicts with federal law is null and void. Do some legislators need Civics lessons?

Please scrap this bill!!!!!!