

**Opponent Testimony on House Bill 62**  
House State and Local Government Committee  
June 9, 2021  
Submitted by:  
Ariel Miller

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 62.

My name is Ariel Miller. I am a Christian voter in Cincinnati, Ohio who wants to protect the sanctity of life. Almost every day, we Americans endure mass shootings which kill innocent victims. This bill represents a view profoundly opposed to Christian ethics (and probably that of all major religions): that an individual's right to own and use lethal weapons is more important than his neighbors' right to life.

I am going to go farther and say that this bill represents making the Second Amendment into an idol. Why are you worshipping guns rather than protecting the life and physical safety of Ohioans?

The only reason I can see is that this is a hot-button issue that motivates a minority of Ohio voters who are extremely vocal. It's a way to energize a base, but the vast majority of Ohioans support common sense gun safety policies. If you need a license to be a barber or drive a car, there's all the more reason to have requirements like gun safety training and a license in order to buy and use a lethal weapon.

Police departments are desperately trying to prevent gun violence. Federal laws that allow local law enforcement to trace gun ownership, and to ensure that people with high likelihood of committing violence against themselves or others cannot buy guns, are crucial to public safety. As I understand your bill, Ohio police officers who register or track gun ownership or enforce federal gun safety laws would lose their jobs, become ineligible for employment as police in Ohio jurisdictions, and their departments be subject to penalties. Why would you want to hamstring law enforcement in their most important duty: protecting the public's safety from crime?

We have very serious and important challenges to solve in Ohio, including ensuring the health, safety, and economic recovery of our communities. Passing a bill that previous court precedents are likely to rule unconstitutional just wastes time and the money that the litigation will cost Ohio taxpayers.

Please stop this bill in its tracks.

Sincerely,

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