

Testimony on House Bill 62
House State and Local Government Committee
June 10, 2021

Submitted by:
Josie Setzler

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 Josie Setzler. I am a retired chemistry professor, wife, mother, and grandmother, living in Fremont, Ohio. At one time, I worked for NAMI and facilitated Crisis Intervention Team training for law enforcement.

I would like to call to the committee's attention the following historic words of Justice Antonin Scalia, from his majority opinion in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 2008.

"Like most rights, **the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited**. [It is] not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose."

Litigation since *Heller* has made clear that the limited nature of this ruling is fully compatible with many gun safety laws that protect us today.

Meanwhile HB 62, if passed, would put law enforcement in a difficult position. HB 62 would penalize local police and prosecutors for enforcing public safety laws. I count among my friends several police officers who worked with me in CIT trainings. I know their dedication to public safety, and I'm concerned about the catch-22 this law creates for them as they seek to serve their communities. This bill would expose Ohio law enforcement officers to costly lawsuits, court costs, and even to the loss of employment simply for doing their job.

Federal and local law enforcement officials frequently collaborate on investigations of gun crime. 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.

I have difficulty understanding why legislators have brought forward a bill that would undermine public safety and sow distrust in the rule of law. I ask this committee to vote NO on HB 62.