

Testimony on House Bill 62
House State and Local Government Committee
June 9, 2021

Submitted by:
Laura Irvin

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

I am a mother and small business owner in Lorain County. I come from a family of gun owners who rarely eat beef because they have so much venison and elk in their freezers. I am not against the second amendment, but am 100% against gun violence. Ten people have been killed in gun violence during the first 5 months of this year in the city of Lorain. How many dead people it will take for Ohio legislators to take notice?

House Bill 62 is unconstitutional because federal law supersedes state law. 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. HB 62 simply whips up extremists who believe the government wants their gun rights. HB 62 adds fuel to the fire. After the insurrection on January 6th state and federal legislators must be aware of the dangers of anti-government sentiment and the violence it encourages. And furthermore, I do not want my hard-earned tax dollars to be spent defending an unconstitutional gun lobby bill.

House Bill 62 threatens local law enforcement with lawsuits and job loss. Ohio claims to be pro law enforcement, but this bill threatens our law officers if they enforce federal gun laws. So, which is it? Are you for suing and/or firing officers who carry out their constitutional duties or do you back the blue?

Please think about what you are doing to your constituents before you vote for this bill. This bill is unconstitutional, bows to unenlightened extremists, will cost taxpayers money to defend, and is anti-law enforcement. Please vote against House Bill 62.

