

Testimony on House Bill 62

House State and Local Government Committee

June 9, 2021

Submitted by:

Leah Bunck, LSW

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 writing to you today as a mother of two, spouse of a teacher who was involved in a school shooting, voter, and social worker. I am proud to be an Ohioan, and will continue to use my voice for my family. I oppose this bill because it is a danger to Ohioans, and will make it harder for law enforcement to control those who are using guns in dangerous ways.

This proposed bill is a misuse of time in the legislation and will lead to confusion for sensible gun owners and law enforcement officials. This bill is dangerous, as it gives less rights to law enforcement officials. From my understanding of the bill, it will also leave those who have chosen a life of service within law enforcement vulnerable to losing their job for enforcing federal laws. It is shameful to me that the State of Ohio would even consider passing legislation that could lead to court hearings or job loss for these public servants trying to enforce federal law.

Ohio already has many laws that protect potential and current gun owners. Laws like this put sensible gun owners at risk of misinterpreting confusing laws set forth, like HB 62. It could lead to them being prosecuted themselves for something they thought was covered by this law. I think most of us can agree that we certainly don't want to use the limited resources of our court systems or jails on something that could be prevented.

I highly encourage this committee to rethink the proposal of this bill, and prioritize the important things for Ohioans- keeping them safe and employed. Legislation like HB 62 does not belong in our state and I encourage you to vote against this bill and use more time focusing on what really matters in our state and for your constituents.

Respectfully,

Leah Bunck, MSW, LSW