

Testimony opposing HB 62

House State and Local Government Committee

June 9, 2021

Submitted by:

Lynn Lunoe

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John and Ranking Member Kelly and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony in opposition to HB 62

My name is Lynn Lunoe and I am a life-long resident of Ohio, a wife, mother of three and grandmother of four. I oppose HB 62.

House Bill 62, the Ohio Second Amendment Safe Haven Act, is a dangerous and unnecessary bill. It would create confusion over the validity of federal law in our state.

We live in the United States of America. One nation. Indivisible. This law seeks to nullify federal laws enacted by our elected officials in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate. I voted for those representatives and believe they are representing the views of the people of the state of Ohio as they make federal laws, just as you do when enacting state law. I don't want their representation to be nullified by statutes like HB 62.

HB 62 jeopardizes public safety by causing confusion and distrust and could encourage extremists to ignore any and all gun safety laws they may disagree with. We have to enact laws, both nationally and locally, that encourage public safety and discourage more violence and vigilantism.

Similar laws have been declared unconstitutional in other states where they have been proposed or enacted. Federal laws are the supreme law of the land and state laws that conflict with federal law have been found to be null and void by numerous courts over many years, including the U.S. Supreme Court.

As a resident of Northeast Ohio, I am shocked by the escalating level of gun violence in our state and in my community. Between Friday, June 4, and Monday, June 7, thirty-five people have been shot in Cleveland, Thirty-five! Gun violence is now an everyday occurrence and our streets are battlegrounds. We need common sense gun legislation at both the federal and state level to help police and prosecutors apprehend and prosecute dangerous people with guns. HB 62 would make their mission more difficult by causing confusion and creating more law suits and adding to court costs.

HB 62 would prevent local authorities from accessing federal resources. It encourages anti-government activity, creates confusion and undermines the rule of law by sending a false message to criminals that federal laws simply do not apply here in the State of Ohio.

Please do not let HB 62 go any further. I strongly oppose this bill. It will make our beautiful state less safe for every single citizen and will abet those who seek to create chaos, incite violence and undermine our lawful society.