

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

Submitted by:
Megan McCarthy Collins

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.

My name is Megan M Collins and I am a lifelong Ohio resident. Supporting a safe community where my family seeks opportunity is important to me. My testimony is in opposition of House Bill 62, a vague law that threatens our local law enforcement with being sued or losing their jobs if they follow federal laws. Local authorities should be able to collaborate on gun crime investigations. 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. Whom does this serve?

Ohioans should be governed by consistent laws that promote public safety. Ohio House Bill 62 does not increase public safety. It creates confusion on which laws to follow, undermining the rule of law, for both individuals and law enforcement.

The majority of Ohioans, and the majority of gun owners, agree that responsible gun ownership involves safety training and safety practices, background checks, and “red flag” laws that allow families to appeal for help to temporarily remove guns from the hands of those close to them, before they kill others or themselves.

Ohio has the 20th highest rate of gun injuries in US and we have the 19th highest rate of gun homicide in US. At an average societal cost of \$937 per person each year, Ohio has the 27th highest per person cost of gun violence in the US.¹ Gun deaths and injuries cost Ohio \$11 billion of which \$486 million is paid by taxpayers.² Instead of pursuing a constitutional fight over gun laws, our legislators should be working to improve the safety in our state.

I strongly encourage you to oppose House Bill 62.

¹ <https://everystat.org/#Ohio>

² <https://everystat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Gun-Violence-in-Ohio-2.9.2021.pdf>