Monday, December 3, 2018

Written Testimony regarding HB 228, the so-called Stand Your Gun law.

I am a small business owner and mother in Northeast Ohio, in Joe Schiavoni’s congressional district. I wish to voice my opposition to HB 228, the Stand Your Ground law currently being debated in committee.

This law is a bad idea for Ohio on many levels. In a general sense, I speak to you as a concerned mother, whose 2 daughters are scared to go to school. My 11 year old tells me about the “active shooter” drills they have at her middle school, and the discussions she has had with classmates about what they would do if a shooter came into their school. My 18 year old recently started as a Freshman at Kent State University, and she often speaks about the climate of fear she sees on campus. The Parkland Shooting took place during her senior year in High School, and her school had a lockdown due to a threat of violence just a few days after that shooting.

We, as responsible gun owner, need to call for more common-sense gun safety legislation. HB228 is the exact opposite of that. Instead of prohibiting convicted felons from having guns, this removes the few limitations Ohio has that prevent felons from being gun owners. We need to require those convicted of domestic violence to be barred from gun ownership. This law does the opposite, making it easier than ever for someone who has previously threatened his or her spouse to acquire and conceal a gun.We need to require gun safety classes, annual registration, and insurance for all gun owners – this law does the exact opposite, by making it easier to conceal carry in public, and making it legal to use a firearm and deadly force even with there are other less violent or deadly alternative available.

This last fact really bothers me, and should bother every human being. Think of the possible threat to innocent bystanders; Someone walks into your school, carrying a gun, and beings threatening to shoot everyone…or better yet, opens fire. Someone carrying a concealed handgun starts firing back. What are you going to say to the parents of the kid who is hit by “Friendly fire”, when someone who is untrained enters a wild west shoot out in a room full of children? That is exactly what you are inviting with this law.

I respectfully urge my elected official to weigh my child’s right to a bright future, and my own right to live long enough to meet my grandkids, when you are weighing the rights for others to own and wield a deadly weapon. My right to a full life should be valued at least as highly.