

Chairman Becker, Vice Chair Stoltzfus, Ranking Minority Member Miller and members of the House Federalism Committee: my name is Kelley Fox and I am writing to oppose House Bill 178

Thank you for taking the time to hear the voices of Ohio citizens.

I write today as a lifelong citizen in the state of Ohio, a state where I feel free to walk around, up until now, without the threat of gun violence in most areas of my life. With the passing of this bill, I am not sure that I could walk with that same freedom for much longer.

My fear with this bill is that those without training in firearms, and those who have had a criminal history will be able to carelessly walk around, possibly threatening not only my life, but possibly their own. I am afraid that by loosening the restrictions around who is allowed to carry will make it so those who decide on a whim that they want a gun will be able to have one and have the power of life and death in their hands.

Another fear I have is for that of children. It is my belief that the more we have guns around children, the more that they are able to have access to them, the more accidents will happen. I don't want the power of life and death in the hands of those who are not trained, and I definitely do not think the power of life and death should be in the hands of children.

Along with that, I am afraid of what loosening the laws on gun violence could mean for those who are often victims of gun violence. When those who have been previously denied concealed carry permits no longer need those permits, I am afraid that there will be a stark increase in gun violence in this great state.

I hope to continue to be a proud citizen of this state of Ohio, but if this law passes, I don't know how I can remain proud in a state where I feel even more unsafe than I may feel now in some circumstances.

I hope you will take my safety and the safety of children and others in Ohio seriously. I hope you will oppose this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kelley Fox
a student and life long resident of Ohio