

Testimony on House Bill 248  
Federalism Committee

Submitted by:  
Marcia Silver, MD, FACP

Chair Becker, Vice Chair Stoltzfus, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to HB 248.

I am an Ohio resident and voter and emeritus Professor of Medicine with many years of experience working in a trauma hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. I have seen too many victims of gun violence– the damage done by gun violence is horrible. Contrary to our emotional responses, the EVIDENCE clearly shows that more guns lead to more gun violence.

I urge you to OPPOSE SUB HB 248 that would allow poorly trained teachers and others to carry loaded guns in schools. This bill should NOT go forward. It is dangerous. Teachers oppose it, insurance companies oppose it (you realize, I am sure, that they are, above all, experts on risk assessment!). Federal law enforcement opposes it. And much more training is required to use a gun effectively and safely than that minimal level allowed by this bill. We wouldn't let anyone teach or drive or be a nurse or doctor or EMT with so little training.

THERE ARE BETTER WAYS TO MAKE SCHOOLS SAFER, such as Extreme Risk laws, secure gun storage laws, and evidence-based threat assessment programs (see <https://tinyurl.com/ETSchoolSafety>). We appreciate your desire to have safer schools – please use these more sensible and evidence-based approaches to guide your future efforts, and vote NO on SUB HB 248.

The Stand Your Ground provisions of this bill are similarly based on emotion and contrary to evidence of effectiveness. (see <https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/analysis/stand-your-ground.html>, <https://everytownresearch.org/report/the-inherent-danger-of-stand-your-ground-laws/> and <https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/corej/StandYourGroundReport.pdf>.)

Lowering minimum age requirements to carry weapons is reckless and dangerous. (see <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/who-can-have-a-gun/minimum-age/>)

The method being used to pass this bill seems intentionally designed to conceal the provisions of this potential law from Ohio citizens and the lawmakers themselves. Replacing a simple, six-page bill about antique handguns with a complex 173 page compendium of gun lobby pet bills, with little notice, during the lame duck session, is surely not conducive to thoughtful analysis and debate. The citizens of Ohio deserve better than these bad faith efforts to sneak looser gun laws past us with little consideration, publicity or debate.

Please OPPOSE SUB HB 248 for the safety and health of Ohio citizens and to protect our democracy.

Thank you.

Marcia Silver, MD, FACP

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: November 17, 2020

Name: Marcia Silver, MD, FACP

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (If Applicable):

Position/Title:

Address: 3140 MORLEY RD

City: Shaker Heights State: Ohio Zip:44122

Best Contact Telephone: Email: msilver51@gmail.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes  No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 248

Specific Issue:

Are you testifying as a: Proponent \_\_\_\_\_ Opponent  Interested Party \_\_\_\_\_

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require?

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

I oppose House Bill 248.

*Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.*