



State Representative Adam C. Miller

Representative Adam Miller's Sponsor Testimony on behalf of H.B. 319 regarding restoring local control of some gun violence measures

Thank you to Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the committee for allowing us to discuss HB 319 an important piece of legislation that would help cities combat gun violence at the ground level.

I also want to thank my joint sponsor Thomas West, a leader and an expert in these matters.

HB 319 is a simple bill. It would allow local control over certain gun related measures.

I want to state clearly that I support the Second Amendment and the right to responsible gun ownership.

But I want to be very clear. My district includes most of the Hilltop USA neighborhood of Columbus. Like other parts of Columbus, it faces immense gun violence challenges.

Columbus Police investigated at least 130 shootings in which a person was injured this summer. Through the summer Columbus saw a 72% increase from 2019 in felonious assault investigations, which include non-fatal shootings, and 486 reports of shots fired into residences, an 85% increase.

This bill simply acknowledges a fact of Ohio. Counties like Crawford and Pike have different needs and challenges than counties like Franklin.

Columbus must have the ability to combat this gun violence epidemic and not be hamstrung by laws that paint too wide a brush.

Again, I want to re-iterate my support for the 2nd Amendment and the importance of ensuring responsible gun ownership. But, stripping away a city's ability to enact reasonable gun violence restrictions – with the check of the Ohio Supreme Court – is costing us lives.

Our cities are in the best position to determine the life threatening and public safety issue facing

them and we should be giving them the tools to do that – whether it is Piketon or Bucyrus or Columbus.

This bill does that.

I ask you for your support.

Thank you.