

Opposition Testimony to HB51
House Government Oversight Committee
Andrea Kovesdi
March 14, 2023

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas and Ranking Member Forhan thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 51 in front of the House Government Oversight committee. My name is Andrea Kovesdi and I am a lifelong Ohioan. My husband and I are small business owners and have two adult children.

After watching the proponent testimony in this committee on March 7, it appears that much of what was said is misleading at best. The “star witness”, who is a former Missouri Representative was behind the same bill that became law in Missouri two years ago and was struck down as unconstitutional by a federal judge only hours before his testimony in front of this committee about why we SHOULD bring this law to our state. He claimed that SOMEHOW HB51 will not bring the chaos to Ohio’s law enforcement agencies that it brought to Missouri’s. I didn’t hear a lot of evidence on why Ohioans should buy that story.

Also, nearly all of the proponents mentioned that a large part of their rationale behind supporting this bill is to protect the “little pieces of plastic” they referred to repeatedly - otherwise known as a pistol brace. The pistol brace when used as a shoulder stock as in the Dayton mass shooting of Aug. 2019 effectively turns a pistol into a short barreled rifle. Now the shooter is able to fire the pistol with rifle-like accuracy and in the case of the Dayton mass shooting fire over 40 rounds in roughly 30 seconds killing 9 and injuring 27.

The proponents of this bill kept saying that as May 31 of this year, those that own pistol braces will become felons JUST LIKE THAT! That, in fact, is not the case. Pistol braces have NOT BEEN BANNED by the ATF. The ATF states that “Nothing in this rule bans “stabilizing braces” or the use of “stabilizing braces” on pistols. As of May 31, those gun owners that use a pistol brace would be required to register said weapon. This is a safety precaution because a short barreled rifle is easier to conceal under a jacket or in a bag and I would think that any responsible gun owner in Ohio would welcome any safety measures in a state that consistently scores above the national average for gun deaths and where gun homicides increased by 79% from 2011 to 2020. *Everystat*

For years now I’ve listened to gun enthusiasts in hearing rooms just like this one, (who never seem to have a time limit placed on their proponent testimonies), vociferously claim that they are ALL law abiding citizens and for the most part gun owners are ALL law abiding citizens and god forbid we infringe on their rights. By definition a law abiding citizen is one that abides by the law. Law abiding citizens do not pick and choose which laws they will abide by as the sponsors and proponents of this bill seem to be encouraging. In fact, it seems that those that support this bill and others like it are concerned only with protecting guns, not the people those guns are turned against. I ask that you stop this bill from moving forward and look for ways to make Ohio a safer place for its people, not its guns!

