

Testimony Opposing House Bill 51
House Criminal Justice Committee

Submitted by:
Robin Hawkins

Committee Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Forhan and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to HB 381. I am writing to you today as a life-long Ohio resident and former teacher whose adult children have either chosen to stay or come back to Ohio with their spouses and children. All are professionals in either medicine or law enforcement and all of us vote, pay taxes and contribute to our Ohio communities. We each and all value our Ohio educations and are actively participating in local efforts to protect and serve our neighbors and to provide all Ohio children the same opportunities to grow up in safe neighborhoods with good schools which we enjoyed so that they too can have productive lives.

HB 51 undermines public safety by blocking enforcement of federal gun laws which protect all citizens of the United States. One example of a federal law that would be disregarded is that those persons who are prohibited by federal law from legally owning and carrying loaded firearms (because for example, they are convicted of domestic violence) would, with passage of HB 51, be potentially armed and dangerous, not only to the domestic partner/children/family who has already suffered but to every law enforcement officer or paramedic/ first responder or any good samaritan who is summoned to help or witnesses this violence.

In states where this type of confusing and irresponsible legislation has been passed, law enforcement and victims of gun violence are already suing the state government at the expense of Ohio taxpayers. What a criminal waste of limited resources. Ohio taxpayers want safe neighborhoods and good schools, not armed vigilantes who have decided each armed adult should decide for themselves which laws they choose to obey. HB 51 sends a confusing and dangerous message that guns, not human beings, are valued and protected.

Please stand together as the Criminal Justice Committee for Ohio voters and citizens and say NO to HB 51.

Sincerely,

Robin Hawkins