

House Government Oversight Committee  
Opposition Testimony: HB 51  
Submitted by Jessica Hubbard

To the Chair, Ranking Member, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to House Bill 51.

I am a young woman, lifelong Ohio resident and voter. I'm also a kindergarten teacher working in a public school in Northeast Ohio. I am writing because I strongly oppose HB 51.

The amount of gun violence that our children are encountering is shocking. Experts in the field tell us that frequent exposure to gun violence can cause changes in the emotional and intellectual development of children.[1] Why are you doing this to the children we're supposed to nurture and protect?

HB 51 will make Ohio communities even more unsafe for our children. If it passes, important federal safeguards (such as the federal "Disqualification List" for background checks) can be nullified by our state legislature. Those federal laws were put in place to help reduce gun violence. But supporters of HB 51 obviously value the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment more than the health and safety of Ohio's children and their families.

Gun violence is an increasingly important issue to younger voters. More and more of us are going to vote for candidates who will reduce gun violence. I urge you to reject HB 51.

Thank you,

Jessica Hubbard

1. [James Garbarino](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Catherine P Bradshaw](#), [Joseph A Vorrasi](#). Mitigating the effects of gun violence on children and youth. 2002