

Committee Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Forhan and Committee Members:

My name is Jennifer Logan, and I am a concerned citizen. I am asking you to please oppose HB51, which is particularly dangerous for women. According to Everytown's research, each month 70 women are shot and killed by an intimate partner. Nearly 1 million report they have been shot or at by an intimate partner, HB51 will allow an abuser convicted of domestic violence or under a domestic violence restraining order to be deemed a qualifying adult (ORC sec. 2923.111(A)(2)(B) who can carry a concealed firearm without a permit. This is a dangerous bill that would undermine the rule of law by attempting to nullify federal gun laws. This dangerous bill would also erode public safety in Ohio by preventing law enforcement from cooperating with federal entities to keep Ohioans safe. HB51 encourages criminal activity, creates confusion and undermines the rule of Law. If enacted this bill would send a false, message to criminals that federal gun law will not be enforced. This bill contains vague language which purports to nullify any current or future gun law and would encourage extremists to ignore common sense gun laws they disagree with. It further subjects law enforcement agencies to expensive legal fees, future employment barriers and other potential costs.

State nullification laws adopt a theory of states' rights that has been squarely rejected by the Supreme Court. As Justice Scalia said, In the Heller case "Like most rights, the right secured by the Second Amendment right is not unlimited (It is) not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose." While 2022 statistics are not available as yet, 2021 witnessed 1,762 gun deaths in Ohio according to data from the Ohio Department of Health. I ask that you PROTECT Ohioans, especially women and law enforcement by opposing HB51.