

**Government Oversight Committee**  
**Opposition Testimony HB 51**  
**By Susan Padrino Iler, MD**

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.

As a medical and psychiatric physician, living in Summit County, I oppose HB 51! This bill is dangerous to Ohioans. It will nullify existing and future federal gun safety laws, like background checks, age limits for owning AR-15s and Red Flag laws. It will allow more people who should not have guns to carry them. Research by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health clearly shows that states with looser gun laws have higher rates of gun violence. We already lose **1,702** people from guns in Ohio each year and **gun violence is the leading cause of death of children in our state.** (CDC Underlying Cause of Death, 2018-2021.) Gun violence is a public health threat to all Ohioans.

This bill is **especially dangerous to women.** Under current federal law, people convicted of abuse cannot concealed carry. If this bill passes, Ohio's state law will be the "law of the land" and it only disqualifies abusers from carrying a gun if they are convicted of Felony abuse. To be convicted of a Felony charge they must have caused "serious physical harm-like incapacity, disfigurement or injury causing prolonged intractable pain" [ORC 2901.01(A)(5)]. As long as the victim can heal from their injuries (ex: broken bones) it's only a Misdemeanor and the abuser could still carry a gun. As a mental health professional, I know how difficult it is for a woman to recover from the trauma of abuse—an almost impossible task when she has the real, state-sanctioned, threat of gun violence as a constant reality.

**HB51 is anti-police.** It will penalize our hard-working police with \$50,000 fines (per incident!) for following US law. It will subject not only individual police but our cities, townships, counties, etc. to law suits if they follow federal law. We taxpayers will pick up the bill. You should not waste taxpayer dollars on a bill that will surely be found to be unconstitutional.

Stop this extreme bill.

Thank you,  
Susan Padrino Iler, MD