

Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony: HB 51
By Joyce Penfield

To the Chair, Ranking Member, and members of the committee:
Thank you for this chance to testify against HB 51.

As a former domestic violence survivor and a retired pastor living in Summit County and working with other survivors of gun violence, I oppose HB 51. Instead of protecting children, women, and families, it will result in more gun deaths to the innocent in Ohio because it will allow more people who should not have guns to carry them. The 2nd Amendment was never created to further irresponsible use of guns and certainly not to put them in hands of those who have a documented record of violence. Cancelling out federal gun safety laws, such as, background checks, age limits for owning the powerful AR-15s and Red Flag laws is giant step backwards in protecting families and children. They deserve better from us.

Making Ohio state law the “law of the land” would allow those convicted of domestic abuse to conceal carry and result in at the least further trauma to victims and definitely endanger the lives of more domestic violence survivors. As a domestic violence survivor myself, I find this insensitive, uninformed, and aiding and abetting the increase of violence to women. If you are a person of faith, I urge remember the way in which your decisions will impact everyday innocent children and women in Ohio who need our protection from violence and who need you to make sure that you make laws that improve safety instead of increasing more gun deaths in Ohio. We owe this much to survivors and even more to the innocent children and women of the future who have not yet had to walk through the valley of death as a result of our mistakes in policy.

This bill will cause more gun deaths in Ohio for many more reasons. Our decision makers will be accountable for bad decisions but these can be stopped now.

Please reject HB51.

Rev. Dr. Joyce Penfield

