

Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony HB 51

Submitted by: Anne Snow

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

My name is Anne Snow and I am a teacher who has been through a school shooting. I live in Stark County and teach at Jackson Middle School, which is suburban school. Having more armed people in our schools or in public places in our communities will not make us safer. On the other hand, having common sense gun safety laws CAN make us safer. Multiple studies have shown that states with more guns and looser gun laws have more gun deaths (Harvard School of Public Health; Boston University).

As a teacher, I am concerned for the physical safety and mental health of our children. The emotional and physical trauma Ohio's children are experiencing, as a result of gun violence, is shocking. This can have lasting negative effects on them throughout life.

HB 51 would make important federal laws, like the Federal Disqualification List for background checks, unenforceable in our state. One immediate impact of that would be that more convicted domestic abusers would be "qualified" to concealed carry a gun. Now you are putting more women and children in situations where a domestic dispute may erupt into a shooting. When that happens, it often results in not only the woman, but the children being shot.

It appears that the authors of this bill value the 2nd amendment more than they value the lives of women, children and all Ohioans. Please vote No on HB 51.

Thank you,

Anne Snow
Stark County