

Elizabeth Ireson, MD  
2818 Erie Avenue, Cincinnati OH, 45208

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Rep. Bob Peterson, Chair  
Ohio House Government Oversight Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Peterson and members of the Government Oversight Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Ireson, and I am a board-certified, practicing pediatrician. I am currently licensed to provide care for children and adolescents in Ohio. I am a lifetime Ohioan and an eight-year resident of Hamilton County. I am writing to implore you to oppose Ohio HB 51.

Gun violence is a public health crisis in Ohio. Guns kill more children than anything else (such as car accidents, cancer, etc.). As a pediatrician I have cared for many victims of gun violence: **a teenage boy with severe disabilities after a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, a pair of siblings who were shot by a passerby while walking home from the basketball court, a young girl whose best friend was shot at their dance practice so now she's too afraid to participate in her favorite hobby.** Every day, Ohioans are killed or negatively impacted by gun violence. Ohio's children are living in fear. Ohio needs legislation that promotes firearm safety, not legislation like HB 51 which only makes it easier for dangerous people to access guns.

HB 51 is particularly dangerous for women. Each month, 70 women are shot and killed by an intimate partner (source: Everytown). HB 51 would allow an abuser convicted or under consideration for domestic violence charges to carry a concealed firearm without a permit. **This proposal will put Ohio women in danger.**

Ohio HB 51 puts our respected police force in a very difficult position. Police are tasked with keeping our communities safe. Guns make our community unsafe. Yet HB 51 proposes that officers who have enforced federal gun regulations would have no place in Ohio. Those police officers would be punished for taking actions to try to save their community members' lives. **Who else is there to protect victims of gun violence in Ohio when the police would get penalized for doing so?**

The Bill proposes that the Second Amendment needs to be preserved. What about the rights of women who deserve to live without fear? Or the rights of police officers just trying to do their job and protect their citizens? I ask that you protect Ohioans, especially women and law enforcement by opposing HB 51.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Ireson, MD