

Government Oversight Committee  
Opposition Testimony: HB 51  
By Nancy Pierson

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

I am a longtime resident of Jackson Township in Stark County, Ohio, a suburban and rural area. I am the mother of a grown son, active in my church, and proud grandmother of 2 children, one of whom has special needs.

**I strongly object to HB 51!**

**This bill is way too extreme for Ohio, regardless of any changes or substitutions you make to it.** If it passes, present and future federal gun laws could not be enforced in Ohio. In fact, our police and our towns, cities and counties will be slapped with law suits and \$50,000 fines for following federal law. Important federal safeguards like background checks, disqualification for gun ownership and age limits for owning AR-15s will be ignored in Ohio. It will allow more people who should not have guns to carry them.

I worry for my children and grandchildren over what kind of state we are creating for them. They shouldn't be in danger of being shot just for going about their daily business. We have a gun violence epidemic in Ohio. The rate of gun deaths in Ohio has increased **52%** from 2012 to 2021, compared to a **39%** increase nationwide. This means that in 2021 there were **648** more gun deaths in Ohio than in 2012. (1) We are headed in the wrong direction!

HB 51 will make it easier for abusers to carry a gun. Under current federal law, people convicted of abuse cannot concealed carry. If HB 51 passes, existing state law will weaken the restrictions that prevent convicted abusers from carrying guns. More abusers will be "qualified" to concealed carry. Every month, an average of 70 women are shot and killed by an intimate partner in the US. (2) Putting more guns in the hands of more abusers will get more women shot.

Thank you for your attention,  
Nancy Pierson

Resources:

1. CDC: Underlying cause of death, 2012-2021
2. Everytown analysis of CDC, National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS), 2019. Last updated: 1.26.2022