

Testimony on House Bill 51
House Government Oversight Committee

Submitted by:
Tony D'Ambrosio

Committee Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Forhan and Committee Members:

My name is Tony D'Ambrosio, I am a concerned citizen and would like to voice my strong opposition to HB51. Attempting to pass this legislation is irresponsible and a waste of taxpayer resources. This legislation is unconstitutional and will make Ohio a more dangerous state. States that have passed similar bills are costing taxpayers money while their lawmakers attempt to defend the legislation. On March 7, 2023, a federal judge ruled Missouri's identical bill as unconstitutional and preempted by the federal government under the US Constitution's supremacy clause. U.S. District Judge Brain Wimes, stated in his ruling that "At best, this statute causes confusion among state law enforcement officials who are deputized for federal task operations, and at worst, is unconstitutional on its face." I ask that you please protect Ohioans and the United States Constitution by opposing this flawed piece of legislation.

Aside from the unconstitutionality of this bill, there are safety concerns regarding this legislation. Research conducted by Everytown for Gun Safety found that each month 70 women are shot and killed by an intimate partner. Nearly 1 million report they have been shot, or shot at, by an intimate partner. HB51 will allow an abuser convicted of domestic violence or under a domestic violence restraining order to be deemed a qualifying adult (ORC sec. 2923.111(A)(2)(B) who

can carry a concealed firearm without a permit. This bill also puts our law enforcement in greater danger since domestic violence calls are often the most dangerous for police. With gun ownership and gun violence increasing in our state, I'm angry that the sponsors of this bill feel that protecting women and law enforcement is not a priority as this bill demonstrates. This bill will also expose Ohio political subdivisions employing law enforcement officers to civil suit and fines of \$50,000 per incident for enforcing federal gun regulations in state, bar the state from hiring qualified, former federal law enforcement officers who in the past had enforced federal gun regulations and fuel anti-government sentiment and encourage violence.

Please do not support HB51.

Sincerely,

Tony D'Ambrosio