

Ohio House Government Oversight Committee
HB 51 Opponent Testimony
Jennifer Georgic
November 14, 2023

Committee Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and esteemed Committee Members:

My name is Jennifer Georgic, and I strongly oppose House Bill 51. I am not an attorney, I am not law enforcement, I am not a first responder, nor do I work in a Troma One Hospital treating gunshot wounds. I don't have the facts and figures of the effects of the proliferation of gun violence at the tip of my tongue, as some do. I am not expert in Constitutional Law. I am a busy older woman who takes care of people, my elderly parents and my grandchildren and I never have enough time in my day. Why do I bother to care enough to testify in opposition to HB 51? Because Ohio becomes even less safe for me and my family with further consideration of HB 51.

The specifics of the interaction of law enforcement and federal laws and the impact of violating the Supremacy Clause can be parsed by the experts. My focus is on the gun safety regulations being deemed unenforceable which may be affected now and in the future by HB 51. The conversation about gun safety happening at a national level and the conversation about gun safety at the state level must continue to evolve and work in tandem. Too many people are being hurt by gun violence. Gun violence and weak laws concerning gun usage impact each one of us through the pain of death and injury, increased financial burden on business and infrastructure, impacted communities, the emotional and psychic scars of our young people and a growing mistrust of those we elect or appoint to keep us safe. I implore you to do something to work towards more sensible gun laws, HB 51 is not it! Everyone has a role, many are and have been working towards a solution, clergy, law enforcement, medical staff, violence interrupters, community organizers and ordinary citizens like me-the gun violence insanity must end!

The sponsors of this bill and the organized, implanted out-of-state proponents seem to want to raise the temperature on the divisions that have become evident in our cities, states, and country. In fact, HB 51 blows on the fire and presents an adversarial declaration from Ohio to the United States government: where does that end? The amplified rhetoric, which I fear to come during the next election cycle, will become more extreme in Ohio through any further consideration of HB 51. Why does that concern me? Any public gathering becomes less safe with our at present concealed carry laws and a lack of civility and ensuing confrontation. I want the right, no, I DEMAND the right to be in a public space, with anyone I choose, free from fear of increased gun violence. I want to know that my loved ones are safe to congregate in Ohio without an intensified threat to their safety. I believe that each one of you in the legislature does too. With that I ask that you protect Ohioans by opposing HB 51 and make Ohioans safer.

Please bother to care, please do something, and put this bill once and for all where it belongs. Bury HB 51.

Thank you,

Jennifer Georgic