

Proponent Testimony for H.B. 62
Ohio House State and Local Government Committee
April 26, 2021

Page 1

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and
Members of the State and Local Government Committee:

My name is Kathy Johnson. Thank you for the opportunity to present my thoughts on H.B. 62, the Ohio Second Amendment Safe Haven Act. I am grateful to Representatives Loychik and Grendell for having the vision to sponsor this important legislation.

At this critical time in our nation's history, it is evident that the federal government stands to pose substantial threats to our individual rights and freedoms; specifically, as defined in the Amendments to Constitution of the United States of America. The republic was formed and founded on these principles which deliberately restrain the power of national government. The Tenth Amendment states that: *"The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."* The emphasis on the power of the states, and moreover, the significance of the people as declared by the Constitution, cannot be understated. Additionally, the emphasis on the rights, liberty, and consent of the people that is evident in the Declaration of Independence must not be overlooked.

Specific to H.B. 62, the Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States precisely guarantees that: *"... the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."* The Second Amendment was intended as a safeguard on the unchecked power of the government, and I fully believe that our Founding Fathers foresaw the day when the growth of government might result in some form of political oligarchy, and that the subsequent oppression of the people might recur in a similar way as they had experienced in their time. I believe that our nation is approaching a threshold where it is necessary and righteous for Ohio to be forethinking and proactive in protecting the rights of the people.

Additionally, and very importantly, Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Ohio upholds confirms in that: *"The people have the right to bear arms for their defense and security..."* I have become aware that there are numerous counties across Ohio that, through their county commissioners, have taken action to secure the rights of the people with regard to the Second Amendment. This growing consensus of counties is certainly a strong motivation for the State of Ohio to act in approving and passing H.B. 62.

When unconstitutional, unjust, or immoral powers are assumed by the federal government with regard to creating laws or pronouncements, or when language of tyranny is repeatedly heard from the District of Columbia, it is the duty and the obligation of the states to use interposition to refuse obedience to such edicts. Thus, unjust Executive Orders or unconstitutional laws, proposed or passed, that impinge upon the rights of the people must be

rejected with forethought at the state level. Ohio H.B. 62 does exactly that with regard to the Second Amendment.

It is incumbent upon the elected representatives of the State of Ohio to uphold their oaths of office to defend and uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

Page 2

It is my belief that, as a nation, we are at the precipice of federal overreach with regard to the people's right to keep and bear arms. H.B. 62 is a well written and thorough bill that will protect the rights of the Ohio people now and into the future. For this reason, I ask the honorable Members of the State and Local Government Committee to expeditiously approve and pass H.B. 62 to the floor of the Ohio House of Representatives and to fully support this critical bill when it comes before the House for a full vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy L. Johnson