



Ohio Gun Owners

Ohio's Grassroots Gun Rights Organization
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MEMORANDUM OF OPPOSITION

DATE: November 12, 2019

TO: Honorable Members of the Senate Education Committee

FROM: Chris Dorr
Director, Ohio Gun Owners

RE: House Bill #123

Chair Lehner, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Fedor and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 123 today.

I'm Chris Dorr, the Director for Ohio Gun Owners, which is Ohio's largest and most unapologetic defender of our right to keep and bear arms.

Our organization and gun owners across Ohio oppose House Bill 123 for the simple fact that, based upon the proponent testimonies provided in support of this bill by representatives from the organization called Sandy Hook Promise, it would let organizations antithetical to a free society have access to school kids to "teach" social inclusion programming.

Sandy Hook Promise as an organization is dedicated to the destruction of our cherished Second Amendment freedoms through firearm bans, magazine capacity restrictions,

Federal and State Red Flag laws, and myriad violations to the fundamental human right of self-defense.

Their website is replete with encouragement for their supporters and activists to lobby their elected representatives to trample out the Second Amendment freedoms of Americans by the passing of gun control laws.

In his testimony to the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee as well as the Senate Education Committee, Sandy Hook Promise founder and managing director Mark Barden revealed that the programming they want to initiate in Ohio's schools was designed with the input of "experts" like Marshall Ganz of Harvard University.

Marshall Ganz is a far-left community organizer and a disciple of the Saul Alinsky model of public policy advocacy.

Marshall Ganz is infamous in the gun rights community for his work on the 2008 presidential campaign of Barack Obama and his continued work with Obama's "Organizing for America," as well as his work for Moveon.org.

Marshall Ganz hates the America our Founding Fathers gave us that is based on individual freedom and liberty.

Gun owners oppose "programming" designed or approved by this terrible man.

Additionally, in her testimony to the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, Sandy Hook Promise's Ohio chapter leader and lobbyist Annie Stephens confessed that their "Safety Assessment and Intervention" program was designed by Dr. Dewey Cornell from the University of Virginia.

Dewey Cornell is well-known to the gun rights community not as an objective "scientist," but rather a radicalized gun-control activist who has testified before bodies like this in favor of his 8-point plan to reduce "school violence," the hallmarks of which include:

- A total BAN on "assault-style" weapons, better known as sporting rifles.
- Universal Background Checks for every state, so that gun owners can be tracked, traced and registered like sex offenders.
- Red Flag Gun Confiscation Orders so that guns can be confiscated without due process.

Quite frankly, people like this who adhere to ideologies like that should never be allowed into our schools to teach anything because their worldview is fatally flawed.

The fact of the matter is that government-sponsored programs cannot achieve the outcome desired.

Social inclusion and suicide are matters of the heart that require family and church solutions, not government-approved programming designed by far-left radicals who simply want access to children to further their own leftist agendas.

There are things, however, that government can do to make sure they are not contributing to the problem.

First, we should stop purging God and moral standards of right and wrong from our schools.

When kids are taught from a very young age that they can simply "do what feels right," that we are all just animals instead of created beings, is it any wonder that kids feel depressed?

But second, gun owners urge this legislative body to use their investigatory and subpoena powers under rule 20 of the Rules of the Ohio Senate and ORC sections 101.41 to 101.46 or 101.81 of the ORC to subpoena pharmaceutical companies to force them to disclose any studies or evidence they have regarding the harmful, violent and suicidal effects of psychotropic/SSRI drugs on the juvenile and adult brains.

As attorney Joshua Prince exhaustively detailed in his testimony on September 25, 2019 to the Pennsylvania Senate

Judiciary Committee on this very issue, the rise of suicide amongst teenagers directly coincides with a 65% increase in usage rates for antidepressants between 1999 and 2014.

In his testimony, Prince details how SSRI drugs like Celexa, Lexapro, Prozac, Paxil, Pexeva, Zoloft and Viibryd are drugs "most strongly and consistently implicated with acts of violence towards others."

Prince continued, "One study found a significant association between SSRIs and convictions for violent crimes in persons aged 15 to 24 years. Another study, which examined SSRI clinical trials, only had access to individual patient listing appendices for 32 of 70 trials and zero case report forms, but still identified a doubled risk of suicidality and aggression in children and adolescents. As detailed by Sam Jacobs in *Prescription for Violence, The Corresponding Rise of Antidepressants, SSRIs & Mass Shootings*, May 20, 2019,

"According to a review of the FDA's database, 484 drugs were identified as triggers to serious adverse events significant enough to warrant a case study during the five-year period from 2004 through 2009. Of these 484 medications, 31 were identified to have a "disproportionate" association with violence. These 31 drugs make up 78.8 percent of all cases of violence toward others in the FDA's database and included multiple psychotropic medications:

- 11 antidepressants
- 6 hypnotic/sedatives
- 3 ADHD medications
- 1 smoking cessation drug

Researchers concluded that violence against others was a "genuine and serious adverse drug event" and that of the 484 medications, the drugs that were most consistently and strongly associated with violence were the smoking cessation medication, varenicline (Chantix), and SSRIs. What were five of the SSRI antidepressants? Fluoxetine: Prozac increased aggressive behavior 10.9 times; Paroxetine: Paxil increased violent behavior 10.3 times;

Fluvoxamine: Luvox increased violent behavior 8.4 times;
Venlafaxine: Effexor increased violent behavior 8.3 times;
Desvenlafaxine: Pristiq increased violent behavior 7.9
times. Joanna Moncrieff, a psychiatrist and researcher at
University College London, commented that "[t]his is
obviously important in the debate about school shootings in
the States and in other places where the perpetrators are
frequently taking antidepressants.

Kelly Hayford, in *Still At Large: Are Psychiatric Dugs the
Hidden Culprit in Mass Shootings?*, Issue #38, Children's
Health & Wellness, Family Life, June 1, 2019, declared that

"we must demand that policymakers start answering the
tough, but obvious, questions. For example, why has there
never been a federal investigation on the link between
psychiatric drugs and acts of senseless violence, including
school shootings, given the evidence and the FDA warnings?
Why are people who are already mentally unstable prescribed
drugs that have the potential to exacerbate their symptoms
or develop new ones, including suicidal thoughts and
violent aggression toward others, in some cases 11 times
more frequently than the average pharmaceutical drug?"

I have attached his complete testimony, including his
exhaustive footnotes, for your further inquiry.

The fact is, you should have been hearing about this data
not from gun rights organizations like ours, but from the
organizations you have already heard from who are
pretending to wish an end to "school violence" and
suicides.

But the fact that you have not heard about these things
from them affirms what gun owners believe to be true about
them: they are not interested in addressing the causal
factors in suicides and teen violence. Rather, their
approach addresses only the symptoms of the problem because
they are pursuing an agenda based on a flawed worldview
where liberty and freedom is subjugated in exchange for a
fake security.

Summary

Abraham Lincoln once said that "America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."

That's what bills like HB123 are, an attempt to destroy America from the inside through government control of education, and a subsequent indoctrination of our students.

God has been taken out of our schools, right and wrong has been taken out, discipline has been stripped away and problem kids are doped up with psychotropic drugs.

The gun rights community stands resolved in our opposition to this social-engineering bill and its adherents, and we'll fight like hell for accountability in future elections to prove it.

So on behalf of the thousands of deplorable, mobilized members of Ohio Gun Owners, a number which is very big and that gets even bigger every day, we urge this committee to scuttle this bill and instead do everything you can to make sure that government is no longer contributing to the problem.