ZACH KLEIN
COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, November 23, 2026
Contact: Pete Shipley, 614.965.0203
Email: pjshipley@columbus.gov

City Attorney Zach Klein urges Gov. DeWine to veto "reckless" gun bill that would give 18-year-olds access to firearms

The leading cause of death among U.S. children is gun violence

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today sent a letter to Gov. Mike DeWine urging him to veto Ohio Senate Bill (SB) 278. The bill would expand Ohio's concealed carry laws by lowering the minimum age from 21 to 18 years old and allow individuals to drive with loaded firearms within reach. The bill also punishes cities who enact gun laws by allowing citizens to sue for monetary damages.

> **"Most Ohioans want commonsense reforms like safe storage requirements that keep guns out of the hands of children and teens, but this legislature continues to move our state in the wrong direction,"** said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **"Making it easier for teens to possess firearms with no training or permits is beyond reckless. It's even more indefensible when the leading cause of death among American youth is gun violence. Gov. DeWine needs to summon the courage to stand up to this nonsense and veto this dangerous bill."**

City Attorney Klein currently serves as co-chair of Prosecutors Against Gun Violence, a national, nonpartisan group of leading prosecutors focusing on gun violence prevention and commonsense solutions to keep kids and communities safe.

The City also has several ongoing lawsuits defending its ability to enact reasonable gun restrictions, including safe storage requirements for homes with children.

**Editor's note: A copy of the letter can be viewed by clicking the link below.*

Klein Letter to DeWine re SB278