



**State Representative Bill Patmon
Sponsor Testimony
House Bill 75
March 4, 2015**

Good Afternoon Chairman Maag, Vice Chair Kunze, Ranking Member Gerberry and members of the House State Government Committee.

Before I begin my official testimony, I would like to give the Committee a thought to keep in mind as they hear the next 3 bills. In *Federalist 51*, James Madison best summed up why I believe we need these bills. Madison said that if men were angels no government would be needed. Men and women are not inherently good. There often needs to be penalties or ramifications in place in order for them to choose to do the right thing.

With that said, it is an honor to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 75, which will prohibit any person from storing or leaving a firearm in their residence unless the firearm is secured in safe storage or by a tamper-resistant lock. Such responsibility is required to be taken upon knowledge or reasonable knowledge that a minor is able to gain access to the firearm.

According to a recent article done by the Children's Defense Fund, since 1979, 116,385 children and teens in America have died from gun violence and Ohio is not excluded in this statistic. In fact, it was noted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that twenty six children aged eighteen and younger died from accidental shootings in Ohio and 234 children and teens eighteen and younger died from firearm homicides in Ohio between 2004 and 2008.

Currently, just over half of all states have passed a Child Access Prevention (CAP) or safe storage law, with House Bill 75 making Ohio the 28th state to introduce such legislation. According to a recent issue brief from the Children's Defense Fund, it was noted that the most effective state CAP laws prohibit negligent gun storage by requiring firearms to be locked whenever a firearm is not in the owner's immediate control and they have reasonable knowledge that a child may gain access to a firearm. The same Children Defense Fund publication highlighted the importance of CAP laws stating "CAP laws work because they provide notice to gun owners that they will be held criminally liable if they do not properly store and lock their guns."

*The sources used within this testimony were sources found from within the Children's Defense Fund December 2012 issue brief.

I am sure there are many concerns that arise regarding this legislation, its constitutionality and the potential infringement of an individual's second amendment rights. I assure those in the room who are concerned, I do not care to take away one's firearms. I simply aim to introduce a common sense law where an individual accepts responsibility for the underage usage, accidental or otherwise, of a firearm.

Again, Chairman Maag and all members of the House State Government Committee I thank you for your time and am more than happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this legislation.