

Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Leland and members of the House Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee. My name is Jeffrey Moore and I am in favor of HB 142.

I believe the requirement to notify police regarding the possession of a lawful CCW firearm, should be eliminated. The presumption of this requirement is that the possession of a lawful firearm by a lawful citizen is a problem. That should not be the presumption under the law.

The announcement aspect of the CCW law has caused me both concerns and problems in the past.

1. If I am traveling with someone on business and they are pulled over for speeding, do I have to declare the firearm and make a scene? Why or why not? What if we are all ordered out of the vehicle? It can be problematic to disclose when traveling with friends or business associates during incidental law enforcement interactions that have no need to know about your firearm and when exactly you need to interject your possession of a lawful firearm is subject to interpretation. I take the concealed aspect of carrying very seriously. The fewer that know about it, the better.
2. When I had older kids, I occasionally hid the firearm in the vehicle due to various carry location limitations. If I were pulled over and had to declare where it was, the kids would now know. I do not have family of questionable character but announcing where the gun was with them in the car, could be problematic. It also announces to everyone around and in some situations, that would NOT be helpful.
3. My wife has a CCW but rarely/never carries. Still, there is a gun in the car for me. If she is pulled over, forgets about it and it is found, she now has a problem where someone without a CCW, would NOT be in violation of that law. It is a law that ONLY threatens the already demonstrated law abiding. Does Ohio really have the judicial resources to pursue otherwise lawful citizens for these types of no impact infractions? When it does happen, is it because people are truly a threat, afraid? Or just offended?

My last three law enforcement encounters have been with Wildlife Officers. I was correctly presumed armed each time. Our interaction was professional and uneventful. The presence of an honest citizen with a firearm is not a problem for anyone, including law enforcement. The law should stop making the presumption that it is.

I urge you to vote for the repeal of the law enforcement notification requirement. If I am pulled over for speeding alone, it probably doesn't matter. In public, the variety of situations and interpretations of timing and when "required" just leads to misunderstandings, possible escalations and complications. All best avoided by removing this requirement, and the presumption about me, it makes under the law.

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