



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

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Testimony on HB 142

House Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee

May 23, 2017

Chair Roegner and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mike Weinman and I am here today to give opposition testimony to HB 142 on behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, Inc. (FOP). I am a retired Columbus police officer, who currently serves as the director of government affairs for the FOP. I am proud to represent over 25,000 full time law enforcement professionals that risk their lives on a daily basis protecting members of our communities. The FOP of Ohio represents municipal law enforcement officers, county deputies, township officers, and officers from most state law enforcement agencies (including OSP, OIU, ODNR, BCI and others).

The FOP strongly opposes HB 142 on the grounds that it threatens officer safety. The duty of a concealed carry permit holder to inform an officer who has stopped her was thoroughly negotiated, and unanimously agreed to, during the numerous interested party meetings leading to the CCW license. The FOP is dumbfounded by the attack on the notification by the CCW permit holder. We see the notification as a constitutionally sound, commonsense measure to keep the permit holder and officer safe. This is especially important today with last year recording a 187% increase in ambush killings of law enforcement officers. An ambush killing recently took the life of Chief Steven DiSario of Kirkersville. Unfortunately, law enforcement is not immune from attacks by CCW permit holders; Twinsburg Police Officer Josh Miktarian was shot four times in the head by a CCW permit holder on July 13, 2008. The permit holder felt Officer Miktarian embarrassed him in front of his girlfriend by pulling him over for a traffic offense.

You have heard arguments that law enforcement doesn't need the notification due to the information being in LEADS. There are scores of situations when LE doesn't have the ability, or time, to run a license plate through LEADS. There are incidents when the permit holder is in another vehicle that is not registered to her. Additionally, officers have numerous encounters when they could approach a permit holder outside of vehicles. How many license plates have committee members seen hanging around someone's neck?

Chairwoman Kristina Roegner

May 23, 2017

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The primary case made by proponents of HB 142 is that officers are apparently incapable of understanding the word promptly and therefore are heavy handed in their enforcement of the notification provision. Contrary to the allegations, today's officers in Ohio are the best educated and trained than they have ever been in the past. Law enforcement has thousands of interactions daily across Ohio, including with CCW permit holders, without incident using sound judgment, commonsense, and exercising considerable discretion. Perhaps the issue doesn't lie with the officers, but rests with the permit holders. Ohio slashed CCW permit training standards from 12 hours to eight, eliminated renewal training, and severely relaxed reciprocity allowing Ohioans to get permits from other states that do not provide even our rudimentary level of training. This lack of training on the part of the permit holder may be the cause of the problem, if it indeed exists.

On behalf of Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide opposition testimony to HB 142. I will be happy to address any questions that you may have at this time.