



Madison County Sheriff

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The Honorable Kristina Roegner, Chairperson
Ohio House of Representatives
Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee

Representative Roegner,

Ohio Sheriff's have been supportive of carrying concealed weapons since its inception in 2003. This based upon assurances of training, background investigations and other requirements to insure safety, while preserving individual rights.

House Bill 142 would eliminate the requirement to notify a law enforcement officer, by a licensee, of carrying concealed at the time of a traffic stop. An officer approaching a vehicle is always in a sense of heightened alert. Should an officer view a weapon or signs of a weapon, that alert is increased and they must assume a defensive mode, physically and mentally. There is no time to ask if the person is authorized to carry concealed. Daily officers face potentially dangerous situations and are trained to react instinctively. Thus eliminating this requirement would place unnecessary tension on both the officer and occupants.

One may argue that an officer already knows, prior to approaching the vehicle, if it is registered to a license holder. Often times, for numerous reasons, this may not be known to the officer at the time he initially approaches the vehicle. As well, the licensee may be in, or operating a vehicle not registered to them.

Elimination of this small burden placed on the licensee would increase the stress of these situations causing the officer to react in a perceived negative manner, in what should have been a calm interaction.

I am willing to answer any questions you or members of the committee may have.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheriff James P. Sabin, Chairman
Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association
Concealed Carry Committee