

DARIN C. MOORE
OHIOANS FOR CONCEALED CARRY
HOUSE FEDERALISM & INTERSTATE RELATIONS COMMITTEE
TESTIMONY ON HB 201
JUNE 20, 2017

Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Leland and members of the House Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee. My name is Darin Moore and I am a Coordinator of Ohioans for Concealed Carry (OFCC). I wish to testify in favor of HB 201.

Today any person who is allowed to possess a handgun can lawfully carry a any firearm openly. To exercise this freedom, there is are no requirements for additional background checks, no extra training, and no extra fees paid to a sheriff. For those people without a CHL who carry a handgun openly, simply wearing a jacket, sweater, or long shirt can turn the lawful citizen into a criminal.

Constitutional Carry as described by HB 201 affirms the fundamental freedoms of Ohioans. After all, we do not tolerate a mandatory licensure scheme to carry a Bible in public nor do we require special training to avoid a warrantless search/seizure. Yet somehow we have all fallen into a decades old trap that says that firearms are different.

Just last Friday, North Dakota became the fourteenth state to allow carrying a firearms without a concealed handgun license (CHL). John Lott of the Crime Research Prevention Center notes that there will be sixteen or seventeen states with "Constitutional Carry" by the end of 2017. Ohio and its residents should be just as free and just as trusted with a firearm as residents of any other state.

It is about time that Ohio embraced the freedom that our founders sought to protect with both the Federal Second Amendment and Ohio's own Constitution Article I, Section 4. HB 201 does exactly that.

Again, Chair Roegner and members of the House Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify on this important matter.