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OHIOANS FOR CONCEALED CARRY  
HOUSE FEDERALISM & INTERSTATE RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
TESTIMONY ON HB 228  
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 228.

Removing the “duty to retreat” is an excellent reform to Ohio’s self-defense laws. The criteria for a successful self-defense encounter are quite extensive even without a “duty to retreat”. The actor still must not initiate or escalate a violent encounter to be successful in their self-defense claim. Furthermore, they must have a valid fear of great bodily harm or death before acting.

A “duty to retreat” functionally forces law-abiding citizens into making tactically poor choices when confronted with a violent, criminal aggressor. In order to protect ourselves and our families, we may sometimes need to react with split-second decisions that can be examined with a high-level of scrutiny afterwards. Since self-defense is a fundamental right, we Ohioans should not have arbitrary and ambiguous restrictions placed on them.

Additionally, many Ohioans who are concerned about their own safety and security are not nearly as athletic as the attackers who prey upon them. Requiring them to attempt to retreat from a criminal who is physically superior to them is not reasonable.

Thus, I believe that HB 228’s removal of the “duty to retreat” is a common-sense reform that will help to protect law-abiding Ohioans.

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