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OHIOANS FOR CONCEALED CARRY
HOUSE FEDERALISM & INTERSTATE RELATIONS COMMITTEE
TESTIMONY ON HB 233
JUNE 20, 2017

Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Leland and members of the House Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee. My name is Doug Deeken and I am a Director of Ohioans for Concealed Carry (OFCC). I wish to testify in favor of HB 233.

OFCC has long sought the change to concealed carry law that HB 233 addresses.

First, let me say that the bill reflects the common sense reality of how a violation of a “no guns sign” happens today anyway. Realistically, if a store owner/manager wants someone to leave they ask them to leave whatever the reason. This bill rightly requires that people first attempt polite interaction before resorting to criminal charges. Essentially, the only people who will find fault with the bill’s purpose are those who are intent on being jerks – and they will get caught by the escalator clause found in the bill anyway. We represent only law-abiding gun owners in Ohio, not jerks.

Additionally, towards the end of this bill (lines 1394-1397) is a vital correction to an oversight from the last General Assembly’s rush to get SB199 through during lame duck session. Essentially, the law as it stands today permits local political subdivisions to authorize CHL holders to carry in public buildings (so long as it isn’t a courthouse or police station, obviously) but due to the aforementioned oversight that same building is still required to be posted with a “no guns sign”. Lines 1394-1397 correct that oversight by permitting the omission of the “no guns sign” when the governing body has enacted a policy to permit carry. This is appropriate to reflect the intent of last session’s SB199.

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