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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 Doug Deeken and I am a Director of Ohioans for Concealed Carry (OFCC). I wish to testify in favor of HB 228.

OFCC has long sought the changes to self-defense law that HB 228 addresses.

Removing the “duty to retreat” is an excellent reform. 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. Meanwhile, what a “duty to retreat” functionally does is to force law-abiding citizens into making tactically poor choices when confronted with a violent, criminal aggressor. While retreating may sometimes, even often, be part of the proper course of action it is not always so. 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 run from a criminal who can outrun them is just silly. Thus, we feel 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.