



Laura Lanese
State Representative, District 23
Sponsor Testimony for House Bill 253
September 12th, 2017
Before the House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Lipps, Ranking Member Leland, members of the House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee, thank you for providing Representative Householder and myself the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on HB 253, which would allow off-duty law enforcement officers to carry firearms in places otherwise prohibited for concealed carry licensees.

Unfortunately, we know that active shooter and other violent criminals can attack anywhere and anytime. Recently, we've seen them in our churches, at our universities and in our restaurants. When seconds matter it is important that highly-trained, highly-vetted law enforcement officials be able to protect Ohio citizens without regard to arbitrary restrictions. By allowing them to conceal carry, off-duty law enforcement officers would be able to respond instantly, possibly preventing a terrorist or a homicidal individual from carrying out a mass casualty event.

There are safeguards included in this bill to ensure the protection of the general public. Officers will not be allowed to consume alcohol and carry a firearm. With regards to the Supreme Court's authority to adopt rules for the general superintendence of the Courts guaranteed under the Ohio Constitution, our bill will allow judges to issue an order prohibiting an officer from possessing a weapon if a member of the officer's family is involved.

Representative Householder and I look forward to working with each member of this committee to ensure that this legislation addresses the needs of Ohioans.

We'll gladly answer your questions.