

DOUG DEEKEN, DIRECTOR
OHIOANS FOR CONCEALED CARRY
HOUSE FEDERALISM & INTERSTATE RELATIONS COMMITTEE
TESTIMONY ON SUB-HB 228
FEBRUARY 13, 2018

Chair Roegner, Vice-Chair Lipps, 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 Sub-HB 228.

While I have testified previously about this bill I want to take this opportunity to speak about the improvements to ORC 9.68 found in the substitute bill.

OFCC has been forced to repeatedly litigate against Ohio cities that flagrantly violate the will of the General Assembly as found in the general law about statewide firearms preemption. Just within the past weeks the Ohio Supreme Court refused to hear Cleveland's appeal after we defeated them in the 8th District Court of Appeals. Months before the Ohio Supreme Court also refused to hear Oberlin's appeal after we beat them in the 9th District Court of Appeals. While we are naturally quite pleased with these victories we still would like statewide clarification of the General Assembly's intent.

One tactic that some cities have tried in the past is to wait until we file a lawsuit and then quickly repeal the offending ordinances so they can claim mootness in court. It should be noted that filing a lawsuit is a tool of last resort for OFCC; we attempt positive and civil engagement first. Here in Sub-HB228 we finally have a solution to this tactic of evasion that should help prompt cities to work with us before these fights make it to court. Indeed, OFCC is willing to aid any Ohio city that wants help reviewing their ordinances for ORC 9.68 violations.

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