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OASIS – Ohio Association of Security & Investigation Services
Written Testimony - before Ohio House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee
Senate Bill 208
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Good afternoon Chairman Roegner, Vice Chair Becker, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the Ohio House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee. I am a proudly retired officer of the US Army, a former Columbus Police Detective, an International Security Consultant and Trainer and currently agency owner of Ohio Special Services Group – a private investigations and security services agency here in Ohio. I was also appointed by Governor Kasich to the Ohio Private Investigations and Security Services Commission from June 2014 to February 2018.

I am here to testify as a “Proponent” to Senate Bill 208 that is now before the House.

I have owned my company since 2005, when I left law enforcement. We find ourselves living in uncertain times with active aggressors and lone wolf terrorism attacks. All you have to do is look at just the local news here in Columbus, Ohio over the past few years: January 2015, John Glenn International Airport Police shoot a knife wielding man outside the Airport who was using female identification to purchase a ticket. February 2016, the Nazareth Restaurant attack in which a machete wielding man attacked patrons of this establishment. Lastly, November 2016 on OSU main campus a man drives his car into a crowd of people, exits his vehicle and begins to stab and chase them with a large kitchen knife. To the experienced Law Enforcement and Security practitioners such as myself it is clearly evident that soft targets are now becoming a focus to those active aggressors, domestic and international terrorists. Having Ohio’s law enforcement community armed and able to thwart those such attacks on-duty or off-duty is a step in the right direction where ever they may be. However, some retail establishments, private property businesses, and other entities open to the public still falsely believe that they are impervious to the threats of today’s society. They still believe in the notion of placing a plastic sign up prohibiting firearms or other dangerous weapons on their window will protect them from any harm. Simply put ladies and gentlemen, it won’t! Please give Ohio’s Law Enforcement community the ability to fulfill their role in protecting Ohioans and providing a safer Ohio for all. These Law Enforcement professionals are proficient with their firearms abilities and qualify annually on an



approved course of fire by the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy and are in compliance with [ORC 109.801](#).

On behalf of OASIS and Ohio's over 23,100 registered Private Investigators and Security Officers we support Ohio's Law Enforcement community and this Bill. Thank you for your time today, and I'll be happy to answer any questions.