



Ohio Gun Owners

Ohio's Grassroots Gun Rights Organization
3195 Dayton-Xenia Road, #900-306
Beavercreek, OH 45434

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 24, 2018

TO: Honorable Members of the Ohio House of Representatives
State and Local Government Committee

FROM: Chris Dorr
Director, Ohio Gun Owners

RE: Opposition to House Bill 585

Chairwoman Anielski, Vice Chairman Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes and members of the House State and Local Government Committee,

My name is Chris Dorr, I'm the director for Ohio Gun Owners, and I'm extremely disappointed, saddened even, that I have to stand here in front of this Republican-controlled committee and testify against the Republican advancement of a Republican-sponsored gun-control bill.

Back in the good ole' days, this wasn't a thing, believe it or not.

But quite frankly, as you've probably already heard from testifiers here today, and as I know you've been hearing from our members and supporters across Ohio, gun owners don't like getting our teeth kicked in by people who campaign on platforms of defending the Second Amendment, but who then promptly about-face and start appeasing radical gun-control militants, like Governor John Kasich.

And that's what House Bill 585 does - it appeases gun-control militants, while destroying our 2nd, 4th, 5th and 14th Amendment Rights along with destroying article 1 Subsection 10 of our State Constitution.

This bill won't increase public safety.

It won't keep guns out of the hands of violent criminals.

The 17 year-old kid who stole his dad's legally purchased "less lethal" shotgun and revolver this week in Texas tragically illustrated that you can pass all the gun-control bills in the world, and even children will easily find ways of thwarting them.

By I know that our dear, sweet Governor Kasich, besides issuing election threats during his news conferences, is going around to each of you, whispering sweet nothings in your ears, so let me be a little blunt:

We gun owners don't plan to keep taking it in the teeth, from Governor Kasich, Representative Henne, the Senate companion bill sponsors or anyone else advancing this gun-control bill.

You see, gun owners have mobilized in election season after election season after election season to help elect "pro-gun majorities" with the expectation that we will NOT have to mobilize against gun-control bills being advanced by those majorities.

Gun owners have donated their time to help out political campaigns.

They have donated their treasure to help fund those campaigns.

And they have stormed the polls time and again to make sure gun-control was held at bay because of the majorities they elect.

But quite frankly, the Republican advancement of gun-control house bill 585 through these multiple hearings has become a blunt reality check for gun owners in this state.

One thing we'd like to point out is that HB585's most ardent supporters are all term-limited. They get to punch out before the dust settles and they conveniently don't have to live with the results.

And that includes angry Governor John Kasich.

But these ardent militants aren't who Ohio Gun Owners is going to turn to for payment for advancing this gun-control bill.

We turn first to those who should know better, and whose districts reinforce that understanding.

Let me tell you a little story about a similar situation I recall.

You see, I'm not originally from Ohio. I was born and raised in the other 4-letter, 75% vowel state of Iowa, and first got involved in the battle to defend and advance our Second Amendment Rights in that state.

But in Iowa in 2008, Iowa gun owners faced a similar situation that Ohio gun owners face today.

In Iowa in 2008, it was acceptable for then Republican Senate President Mary Lundby to introduce gun-control on behalf of the Brady Campaign.

Also in 2008, Iowa was a "may issue" state where the 99 county sheriffs could decide they didn't like guys with beards, or any other arbitrary reason, and could deny anyone their carry permits, and with zero recourse or appeal for those denied.

But then Iowa gun owners got to work.

Aggressively.

And they did their BEST work during the election season, cycle after cycle after cycle, remembering each and every roadblock along the way and systematically removing them.

In fact, if you fast forward to July 1st of 2017, over 35 incumbent legislators were in the employment line, Iowa went from a may-issue state to a shall issue state to a Stand-Your-Ground state, and finding a Republican to sponsor a Bloomberg gun-control bill like HB585 here is an impossibility in 2018.

All of those spectacular results are because gun owners were handed that reality check by Republican Senate President Mary Lundby.

Now, I don't pretend to stand here and speak on behalf of every gun owner in Ohio.

Actually, I only speak on behalf of the aggressive, ever growing, ever increasing, ever expanding membership and supporters of Ohio Gun Owners.

And this bill is that reality check to us. We're eager to get to work fixing this climate that makes it acceptable for the Republican advancement of these bills.

As such, we suggest you make vocal objections, block in committee, and vote NO at every turn of action on HB585.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today!