

My opponent testimony to HB 585  
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As I see 585 going up the ladder, I start to think about the repeated times where I left my home 6 to 8 months at a time to defend the United States freedom and our Constitution. I left my family behind, not knowing if I would ever come back. Like me, many of my brothers and sisters in the military do the same sacrifices. Then I read 585 and I can't help but think was all that sacrifice worth it. Then, the Marine in me kicks in and I say "yes it was", and just because a few politicians and citizens who may not have done the same sacrifices the I did and my brothers and sisters are still doing have the ability to enter a bill like this that only infringes on the rights of law abiding citizens for a false sense of security. I don't see that it does anything against the criminals.

But, wait. That's what the First Amendment is for. Everybody says what they want regardless of how it effects others. My heart goes out to the families of the victims of these mass killings and I know what it is to lose a son at an early age. So, don't lecture me about that.

I know something must be done to secure our schools with trained resource officers and to take care of mental health issues. But, don't try to enforce this nonsense "common sense" law by cramming it down my throat, and then tell me everything is going to be OK. If you lose a son or daughter in a car accident, you can't take all the cars off the road. Right? So, lets start taking this matter seriously and start blaming the real people like law enforcement personnel that don't do their jobs or make avoidable mistakes.

Lets take care of gun free zones the right and proven ways because you don't see mass shootings at gun shows or ranges and that is because criminals know that if they were to try something, it would be met with utmost resistance. That makes them think about it and they change their minds. Please don't tell me that positive defense is a budget issue. There has to be money for this priority.

This 585 will only affect the legal firearms sports at all levels, from three gun competitions to precision pistol and rifle shooting, and all Jr CMP activities that offer excellent opportunities for scholarships. Do not forget CCW/CHL holders, weapons collectors hunters, etc. All continue an excellent tradition that we can all be proud of.

Again, this 585 infringes on the rights of law abiding citizens and does nothing to impact this rash of mass shootings. The politicians trying to pass 585 are forgetting all the times that a crime is stopped by a good guy with a gun. Let's not forget that only 2% of crimes are committed with a rifle. That means that registering all guns only gives police departments more paper work on top of the important stuff. And, where is privacy protected for legal gun owners. Since criminals aren't going to register their guns, how is this going to help stop mass shootings.

In conclusion, I just want to say that I am not in favor of 585 and I certainly hope that my sacrifices and the sacrifices of my brothers and sisters in defense of the Constitution won't be ignored. I bet the thousands of Ohioans serving overseas don't even know about what you politicians are trying to do back home. If they knew and you guys gave them appropriate time to answer, it would be a different story. But, they are too busy trying to stay alive, while defending our Country and our Constitution.

Thank you,

Darial Perez