

Members of the House, State, and Local Government committee, I first would like to thank each and every one of you for taking the time to hear opponent testimony of H.B. 585. I would also like to thank you for your service to this beautiful land we call home and the part you play in our Constitutional Republic. My name is Zachary Thomas Howard Musick. I am a father, husband, gun owner and a Registered Nurse for the State of Ohio. I don't often call myself by the titles I have earned and rarely use them because I believe that first and foremost I am an American Citizen; so my responsibility is my civic duty to my Country and the Constitution first and foremost rather than the service that I provide to my countrymen and women. I also believe that actions speak louder than words. This is why I am standing before each and every one of you to voice my opposition to H.B. 585 rather than wasting my time making angry comments and faces on Facebook from the comfort of my computer. I start my argument with data from the CDC (mind you this is data they attempted to bury) where they found that over the span of three consecutive years firearms were used four times as often for defensive purposes rather than for the purpose of committing a crime. That's 2.46 million uses of a firearm for the purpose of self-defense. A similar study in Florida found that there were 2.2 million defensive uses of a firearm in a year. I could continue this argument with data that shows that firearms account for a small percentage of total homicides in a year when in comparison to that of alcohol, texting while driving resulting in motor vehicle accidents, poisonings, etc. With total homicides from firearms, 60% of those deaths are the result of suicide. I could also use the anecdote of a recent shooting in Tennessee which I am sure you are all aware of where a man by the name of Travis Reinking walked into a Tennessee waffle house and began shooting people with an AR-15 rifle. Reinking was stopped by an unarmed heroic veteran who grabbed his rifle, after he had killed four people. I ponder upon this scenario and wonder how different it would have been if this hero had been armed himself, the waffle house in Tennessee (of all places) would have permitted people to carry whether concealed or not rather than being a gun free zone and advertising as such to people like Reinking to commit their heinous acts. However that's not

what bothers me the most about this story. What bothers me the most is that the laws in place (one law very similar to H.B. 585) failed to stop Reinking. Reinking wasn't allowed to own such a weapon, he had his firearms seized from him in 2017 after he was arrested trying to enter a restricted area at the White House. The FBI ordered local police to confiscate Travis' guns, and he also had his firearms license revoked, yet that did not stop him from acquiring a firearm illegally and killing four people. Ponder that for a minute. This was a man who by all intents and purposes should not have had a firearm, had his firearms seized and yet, he still was able to murder four people who had no means to defend themselves. If someone wants to cause carnage, they will find a way. I blame our media for giving these men the attention they crave by sensationalizing them, yet that is not the point I wish to make. With all of these examples and arguments you will hear today I believe there is one that few will touch upon and it is my sincere hope that I am wrong on this. That argument is for upholding due process. Due process is covered by the Fourteenth Amendment and yet I believe we all are forgetting its importance because our focus is so tightly on the protection of the 2nd Amendment (Do not misinterpret this as my lack of support for the 2nd amendment.) I am staunchly pro-Second amendment and will be voting in favor of those who support the Second Amendment and gun owners. However, if we place importance on one Amendment we must also place our regards for them all as they are the fabrics to who we are as a people, culture, and the very foundation to our Government and judicial process. I believe H.B. 585 is a step in the wrong direction; masking itself as a feel good bill to say "hey we tried." I also believe it is a bill that is attempting to placate a group of people who more than likely have never held a firearm nor have been in a situation such as myself where one was needed but I did not have it. H.B. 585 is an attempt to subvert due process (through its vague language) and allows firearm confiscation through ex parte orders. This is a dangerous precedent to establish (that should worry citizens who ARE gun owners as well as those who are NOT gun owners) as the manner of which it is enacted and carried out is ripe for abuse and dependent on the here say of other people (say a disgruntled significant other,

false reports, etc.) I do not believe subverting due process (a fundamental aspect of our judicial system) for a little safety is the answer to the problems that we as a nation face. I ask that you do the right thing and stand by your oath the Constitution first and foremost by voting NO to H.B. 585. I close off with a quote attributed to Edward R. Murrow “we must not confuse dissent with disloyalty. We must remember always that accusation is not proof and that conviction depends upon evidence and due process of law. We will not walk in fear, one of another. We will not be driven by fear into an age of unreason, if we dig deep in our history and our doctrine, and remember that we are not descended from fearful men – not from men who feared to write, to speak, to associate, and to defend causes that were, for the moment, unpopular. An armed man is a Citizen. An unarmed man is a subject. Thank you for your time and service.