

Frank LaRose
State Senator
27th District



Ohio Senate

Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, Room 221
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-4823

Sponsor Testimony on Senate Bill 234
Senate Government Oversight and Reform
December 12, 2017

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni, members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on Senate Bill 234. This legislation is design to prevent certain housing developments from infringing on Ohioans Second Amendment rights. Currently, landlords of housing developments who accept federal assistance dollars can force residents to sign rental agreements banning the possession of firearms on the premises. This bill, if enacted, would prohibit such rental agreements from being forced upon people thus protecting their constitutional rights.

This necessary change would only affect housing developments which receive funding from one of the following federal assistance programs:

- The United States Department of Agriculture's Multifamily Housing Rental Assistance Program under Title V of the "Federal Housing Act of 1949."
- The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Housing Choice Voucher Program, the New Construction Program, and the Substantial Rehabilitation Program.
- The Moderate Rehabilitation Program under section 8 of the "United States Housing Act of 1937."

It's important to note that landlords cannot be held liable for any incident involving a firearm that occurs on their premises. However, if they were to continue to implement and enforce similar rules on their property, tenants may seek damages and reasonable attorney's fees.

I worked closely with the National Rifle Association, Buckeye Firearms, and Ohioans for Concealed Carry to draft this legislation. Together, we believe that any housing development that receives federal dollars should not have the right to circumvent the constitution. No one should be denied their second amendment right simply because they live in subsidized housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.