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December 4, 2018

Testimony on Substitute House Bill 142

Chairman Coley and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michael Weinman, director of government affairs, for the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police. Thank you for allowing me to give opponent testimony on HB 142. Today, I am testifying on behalf of more than 25,000 active and retired members of the FOP from across Ohio

The FOP strongly opposes HB 142 on the grounds that it threatens officer safety. The duty of a concealed carry permit holder to inform an officer who has stopped her was thoroughly negotiated, and unanimously agreed to, during the numerous interested party meetings leading to the CCW license. The FOP is dumbfounded by the attack on the notification by the CCW permit holder representatives. We see the notification as a constitutionally sound, commonsense measure to keep the permit holder and officer safe. This is especially important today with 222 officers shot in the line of duty and 48 making the ultimate sacrifice this year. A 16% increase over last year. Unfortunately, law enforcement is not immune from attacks by CCW permit holders; Twinsburg Police Officer Josh Miktarian was shot four times in the head by a CCW permit holder on July 13, 2008. The permit holder felt Officer Miktarian embarrassed him in front of his girlfriend by pulling him over for a traffic offense.

You have heard arguments that law enforcement doesn't need the notification due to the information being in LEADS. There are scores of situations when LE doesn't have the ability, or time, to run a license plate through LEADS. There are incidents when the permit holder is in another vehicle that is not registered to her. Additionally, officers have numerous encounters when they could approach a permit holder outside of vehicles.

The primary case made by proponents of Sub HB 142 is that officers are apparently incapable of understanding the word promptly and therefore are heavy handed in their enforcement of the notification provision. Contrary to the allegations, today's officers in Ohio are the best educated and trained than they have ever been in the past. Law enforcement has thousands of interactions daily across Ohio, including with CCW permit holders, without

incident using sound judgment, commonsense, and exercising considerable discretion. Perhaps the issue doesn't lie with the officers, but rests with the permit holders. Ohio slashed CCW permit training standards from 12 hours to eight, eliminated renewal training, and severely relaxed reciprocity allowing Ohioans to get permits from other states that do not provide even our rudimentary level of training. This lack of training on the part of the permit holder may be the cause of the problem, if it indeed exists.

While the bill has undergone several changes, the FOP agrees with Buckeye Firearms that the changes are unacceptable. Every encounter does not require an officer to ask for identification. Additionally, we would never agree that lying to a police officer about having a gun should only be a \$25.00 fine. If this bill passes, and judging by yesterday's testimony, the committee should be aware that officers are going to discover a gun on a person and hear the "well you never asked me". There will be others who will not be afraid of the inadequate \$25.00 fine especially since the bill prohibits lying as a cause to lose ones permit.

On behalf of Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide opposition testimony to Sub HB 142. I will be happy to address any questions that you may have at this time.