

To: Ohio House Criminal Justice Committee
From: James W. Dowdell
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Subject: House Bill 178

As a 69 year old senior citizen with a 72 year old wife, I know we are attractive “prey” for the criminal predators who roam among us. We strive to avoid environments that are more likely than others to present risks, but also know almost anywhere can be a possible attack zone. This is one reason I have had an Ohio Concealed Handgun License (CHL) for almost ten years.

I must admit, it grates on me to have to receive a “License” to exercise a “Right.” Of all of the rights codified in the Bill of Rights, ONLY the Second Amendment is accompanied by the words “:, Shall Not Be Infringed.” As elected Representatives, every member of this committee has taken an oath to uphold the United States Constitution. You now have an opportunity to honor that oath by rectifying this affront to our constitutional right.

I urge all members of this committee to vote to empower all lawful Ohioans to be able to carry concealed handguns and other self defense tools for their security and the security of others. The more the criminal predators have to worry about their safety, the better served will be the safety of their intended prey.

Respectfully,

James W. Dowdell