

Antonia J. Blake's Testimony

May 1, 2019

I would like to enter my testimony in Favor of House Bill 178 into the official record.

I plan on testifying in person.

Here is my testimony:

Chairman Becker, Vice Chairman Stoltzfus, Ranking Member Miller and Members of the House Federalism Committee, Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this paramount and very timely legislation , HB 178 - Ohio Gunowners Constitutional Carry.

I have lived in this Great State of Ohio my entire life, and would not have chosen otherwise. I love this State, leaving it only for a period of about eleven years, ten of those years spent in service of The US Army Nurse Corps.. and being stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. and later, Womack Army Medical Center, Ft. Bragg, N.C.. I retired as Captain in 2013.

Since leaving the Army, I have been proactively working to secure and preserve our Constitutional Rights in particular, the sanctity of human life from natural beginning to natural end; and of course, our treasured Right to Bear Arms in defense of ourselves, our family, and if needed, our country.

When I took my oath to join the Army, I made that commitment very seriously and will keep my promise until I pass away.

I come from a military family, and know from serving that there is a very fine line between Liberty vs. Tyranny, understanding that the disarming of innocent people, in any way, does not ever protect innocent people.

In the news we heard from our distinguished Governor that he has commissioned his staff to look at forming a plan to do just that ; disarm law abiding people in the hope of protecting innocent people.

No one doubts in anyway, that our governor 's statement yesterday, was rooted in any malevolence, as he is a very "good man", but that it was made at least in part, because he heard the outcry from his citizens due to the many shootings which have been occurring worldwide daily.

Hearing from many local people I've heard the questions: " where is the plan to disarm criminals, and Not law abiding citizens? "how will we protect ourselves, in knowing that the average response time from local law enforcement agencies ( according to Sheriff Organizations) is about 24 minutes in the city. ( Rural areas it could be upward of 90 minutes).

Ohio House Bill 178, which pertains to only those law abiding citizens, who responsibly exercise their right to own firearms in a naturally appropriate & safe way and who have shown due diligence in this regard. That this group of citizens should be extended the right to carry a concealed weapon that they own legally without having to purchase additionally, a license for that weapon.

As you may already know, neighboring states such as Kentucky and WV already enjoy this privilege, as well as, 14 additional states, and have demonstrated virtually no dire consequences.

Ohio Gunowners Organization who has submitted this wonderful bill for your consideration, has been in the forefront in recognizing the true need for this bill in supporting our Constitutional Rights and privileges.

Ohio Gunowners (OGO), is a straightforward grassroots organization formed " of the people, by the people, and only for the people" . As members we are extremely grateful for people like Mr. Christopher Dorr, who selflessly sacrifices his time and efforts solely for preserving our Second Amendment Rights here in Ohio, and has demonstrated unquestionable integrity in this regard.

He consistently works very hard on our behalf, and we deeply thank him for his all of his efforts here in Ohio. He is Not a groomed lobbyist with an agenda. He is a citizen, a father and husband ; your friendly neighbor next door; with no selfish motives, only wanting to preserve our Constitution for the future of his children, and ours'.

HB 178 is Not complicated, it is simple, straightforward and, Good for the people, and has shown to support and uphold our republic; Not detract from it.

We believe the burden of requiring a paid license simply for a privilege to carry that we already have, is

Not Just, And we ask you to pass, without reserve, or amendment, House Bill 178- OGO Constitutional  
Carry on behalf of the good citizens of Ohio.

Thank you so much for hearing my testimony.

Antonia J. Blake