

Ohio State Legislature  
Federalism Committee  
Chairman John Becker

Re: Constitutional Carry HB178

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Representatives, Distinguished Guests, and Fellow Citizens:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address this august body.

My name is Gale Joy. I am an American, a Veteran, and more importantly a proud Ohio citizen. I am also an elected Council Member where I have the opportunity to represent my fellow citizens in the Municipality of New Lebanon, Ohio.

I mention these things because I want you to realize that I have openly given and reaffirmed Oaths to protect and defend the US Constitution and the Ohio Constitution on several occasions. I took these oaths seriously and without mental reservation or purpose of evasion. Beginning with the oath I took when I entered the United States Army, my oath has never been rescinded. I stated that I would protect and defend the US Constitution and then later the Ohio Constitution.

I have prepared this statement as a proponent of what has come to be known as "Constitutional Carry". I feel this is a slight misnomer in that there is nothing in the US Constitution or the Ohio Constitution that prohibit me from having a firearm on my person. Needless to say, laws have been passed that have restricted me from doing so or face criminal charges. It is these laws that I am addressing.

The federal government was clearly established as a government with limited authority. Over time, the limitations of power imposed by the US Constitution have been eroded and the various State legislatures have allowed this to happen.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment of the US Constitution states in part "the Right of the People to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." The right to bear arms is inherent in the right to self-defense and the defense of our family. This right to bear arms has been conferred on us by our Creator in the form of an unalienable right.

Moreover, in Article I Section 1 of the Ohio Constitution it states "All men are, by nature, free and independent, and have certain inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and seeking and obtaining happiness and safety."

Additionally, in Article I Section 4 of the Ohio Constitution it states in part "The people have the right to bear arms for their defense and security".

In these two entries in the Ohio Constitution Bill of Rights we see that we have an inalienable right to self-defense and the right to defend our loved ones and property. It doesn't say where we can defend them, it doesn't say with what we can defend them, and it doesn't say how we can defend them. The answer to that is clear; we have a right to defend ourselves, our loved ones and our property by any means necessary up to and including with deadly force wherever, whenever, and however we deem appropriate.

The government then should have no legislation limiting where we can carry a firearm, when we can carry a firearm, how we carry a firearm, or for that matter any other “dangerous weapon” that we choose to have on our person.

In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson penned these words on the purpose of government “that All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness, that to secure these rights Governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

In closing, I urge you to recognize our unalienable rights and rescind the laws limiting our rights, and in this case, to pass legislation rescinding all previous unconstitutional firearms legislation.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

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