

Hank Steward's Testimony

May 1, 2019 Hearing

Hello. My name is Henry (Hank) Steward. I am 57 years old and been an Ohio resident all my life. I am a father, Grandfather, avid outdoors man, NRA certified firearms trainer, competitive shooter, and a state Militia Commander.

It's time for common sense in gun rights. If you legally own it, you may carry it!

Pass Constitutional Carry HB 178 while maintaining licensing as optional for reciprocity purposes which is acknowledged in 16 states now.

Bottom line is that criminals do not follow the law. The permit requirement disarms their victims.

Based on evidence from other states, a permit requirement does not make people safer.

Anyone who legally possesses a handgun should be able to carry it, open or concealed, without a permit.

Ohio should join the growing number of states who recognize constitutional carry, meaning that the constitution is our permit to carry.

Law-abiding citizens who possess firearms should not be restricted from legally exercising their God-given right to carry that firearm.

Americans have the right to be safe in their homes, on their streets, and in their communities; and the unalienable right to defend themselves.

Allowing gun owners to carry legally owned firearms without a permit makes victims safer and violent criminals more afraid to cause harm.

It's time for Ohio to recognize Constitutional Carry. Most Ohio voters stand for the unfringed right of the people to keep and bear arms, knowing that this makes all of us more secure in a world where people would do harm to others, and that this is the right by which all other rights are protected. "

So here's the thing: Vermont has had constitutional carry for years with no issues. They actually adhere to the words of our Second Amendment. Why is it then that some Ohio legislators don't support it? Do they somehow feel that their Ohio constituents are less worthy? More inherently violent? VERMONT for heaven's sake! I would think that any senator or representative that is against this would have some explaining to do to his/her constituency!

I personally believe that the current system is just a sneaky underhanded way of keeping and making a list, or a way to sneak something else through in an Omnibus bill. Maybe a bill no one will read before passing. HB178 should be a stand alone bill. I can not believe some of our lawmakers take their Oath of office so lightly. Anyone who does not support this bill definitely did not take their oath seriously. Because this is a Constitutional law. I guess it just needs reaffirmed.

I could not imagine looking George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, or any of the great American Patriots in the eye today because of the way our Constitution is being walked on. Has everyone forgotten what those Militia men gave up for our republic and our Constitution? They gave up their money, farms, houses, families, they starved, froze, and even gave their lives for freedom from Tyranny.

In closing. Please help push HB178 Constitutional Carry through as a stand alone bill and protect our God given right.

Thank You, Hank Steward