



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR GUN RIGHTS

DEFENDING THE SECOND AMENDMENT
STANDING UP FOR FREEDOM

Thank you Mr. Chairman and to the committee for allowing me to testify today. I'm Brenden Boudreau from the National Association for Gun Rights here to testify on behalf of our thousands of members and supporters here in Ohio.

NAGR fully supports House Bill 178. This bill would make Ohio a better and safer state, by allowing persons who can legally possess firearms to be able to carry them concealed without first needing a government permit and paying a tax on their right to carry.

Ohioans can already carry a handgun without a permit, but it must be unconcealed. With this bill the handgun could be concealed or unconcealed. This change enhances the right to keep and bear arms in Ohio.

A person carrying a handgun for personal protection should have the option to display or not to display the firearm. Many carriers are justifiably concerned that if a criminal knows they have a firearm they will be targeted for theft of that firearm, or targeted for a preemptive attack by a person intent on causing them harm. Concealing the firearm means that evil-doers do not know in advance if their intended victim is armed or not.

Likewise, persons in Ohio can already carry a firearm for personal protection without any training required. The firearm just must be unconcealed. While NAGR believes training is worthwhile for anyone carrying a firearm for personal protection, NAGR does not believe any particular training should be mandated by the government. The fact that carry without a training requirement is already legal shows that mandated training does not have a relation to public safety.

This bill would also eliminate the requirement that a person legally carrying a firearm advise law enforcement of that fact without being prompted by the officer. This requirement only heightens tension between law enforcement officers and law-abiding gun owners in unrelated traffic stops. This requirement does nothing to enhance the safety of law enforcement officers. If an officer wants to know if a person has a firearm he can still ask, but the onus should not be on the person lawfully carrying.

I encourage the committee to swiftly pass this legislation with no anti-gun amendments.

Thank you for your time.