

Nicholas Bugosh's Testimony

May 1, 2019

Chairman Becker, Vice Chairman Stoltzfus, Ranking Member Miller and members of the House Federalism Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify on this wonderful legislation, House Bill 178.

The present collection of local and state firearms carry laws across the United States form a maze that law-abiding citizens must negotiate to exercise their Constitutional right to keep and bear arms. These laws are not followed by criminals (by definition) but instead only serve to infringe on the rights of the law-abiding.

It's time to acknowledge that truth and get back to simpler law enforcement, controlling crime by holding criminals accountable for their actions, for example the commission of a crime that involved unlawful use of a firearm, instead of maintaining the false presumption that people would only be armed for criminal purposes. It is common for prosecutors to plea-bargain away the federal 'mandatory sentencing' for use of a firearm in commission of a crime to obtain quick convictions for lesser offenses; this practice puts criminals who we know use firearms in commission of their crimes back on the streets sooner while 'gun control' laws inhibit the rights of the law-abiding to protect themselves and others.

One additional comment is that I served as a certified concealed-weapons instructor for many years and believe that minimal gun safety training along with a demonstration of practical proficiency is desirable for armed citizens. I think that debate can be held to arrive at a way to achieve that end that would not infringe on our Constitutional rights.

Regards,

Nicholas Bugosh