



BUCKEYE STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

1103 Schrock Road, Suite 401 • Columbus, Ohio 43229 • Tel: (614) 431-5500 • Fax: (614) 431-5665

ROBERT A. CORNWELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Honorable Jon Becker, Chairman
House Federalism Committee

I am here today to speak with you about HB 178 and the proposed changes to the CCW legislation.

When this legislation went into effect, the main priority for Law Enforcement was to have as much notice as possible about who was carrying concealed weapons so that our officers would remain as safe as possible. Having CCW permit holders linked to their vehicle registration as well as having permit holders announce they are carrying to officers helped in achieving this. When officers are in contact with the public, they must always remain cautious and vigilant. When the officer was made aware of the permit, they have less reason to believe that the person they are in contact with has any intention of violating the law. Although officers can never fully trust a person they are in contact with, a law-abiding citizen does lessen officer's tension levels.

The CCW permit process also requires carriers to attend and complete training, including the proper handling, storage and firing of firearms. This training, however short it may be, does give certified firearms instructors the opportunity to teach

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basic gun safety to permit holders, such as loading and unloading the firearm and storing it in a safe place when not carrying. They are able to familiarize permit holders with firearms operations and safety aspects in carrying and firing firearms, including proper holster fit, proper concealment and firing the weapon. In several instances, this is the first time a permit holder will be firing any type of firearm. These instructors also teach about the laws that are in place for the proper transportation of firearms in motor vehicles and the prohibition of carrying firearms into certain establishments that have the proper signage prohibiting firearms.

There are also issues with the legislation about changing "firearm" to "deadly weapon". Obviously, there are several "deadly weapons" besides a firearm that would be dangerous for people to conceal. With this change this would allow more weapons to be concealed causing much more risk to Law Enforcement.

Some of these changes may appear to be small and minute and not of any consequence to some people. To officers, regulating that people have a duty to report is very important. This helps separate law-abiding citizens from the criminals that we arrest. These changes could allow criminals to blend in better with our law-abiding citizens, creating a substantial risk to our officers.

If there are any questions, I will try to answer them.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Lutz, President
Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association
Muskingum County Sheriff