

Chairman Becker, Vice Chairman Stoltzfus, Ranking Member Miller and members of the Federalism committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 178. My name is Christopher Kostura. I have been a member of the Orange Village Police Department for 40 years. I have worked my way through the ranks of Patrolman, Detective, Sergeant, and Lieutenant. During my 40 year tenure, I have continued to attend classes and seminars to continue my education of the ever changing field of Law Enforcement. In 1991, I graduated from the F.B.I. National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. I have my certification as an instructor through the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy and I am also a certified Emergency Medical Technician. I have also been active in the Chagrin Valley Enforcement Group as a training coordinator, hostage negotiator, and the former President of the group. Some of my other affiliations are as follows: Crime Stoppers, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #57, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Cuyahoga County Chiefs of Police, International Association of Chiefs of Police, member of the Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (2002), and the executive board of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (2005-2008).

With my extensive law enforcement background being detailed above, I am opposed to HB 178. The current concealed carry law requires that the subject declare they are carrying a weapon when stopped by a law enforcement officer, which could be vital for the safety of both the subject and the officer. In training to obtain the current CCW permit, students are taught how to declare the weapon to law enforcement properly and how not to make a possible critical error brandishing the weapon to the officer forcing them to defend themselves. Allowing an untrained person with no background checks to carry a deadly weapon is asking for tragedy to occur whether by accident or by bad decisions. It is for these reasons that I am opposed to the changes House Bill 178 wants to make to the current concealed carry legislation.

Best Regards,

Christopher Kostura

Chief of Police

Orange Village Police Department