

Testimony on House Bill 178

Senate Government Oversight Committee

Rep. John Becker, Chair

Rep. Reggie Stoltzfus, Vice Chair

Rep. Adam C. Miller, Ranking Member

Submitted by: Sieglinde Martin

Chair Becker, Vice Chair Stoltzfus, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony on House Bill 178.

My name is Sieglinde Martin. I am a citizen of Columbus, Ohio for over 50 years. My second daughter was born here in the old Saint Ann's Hospital downtown. Today she, her husband and 2 children live in Sunbury. My grandson graduated on Saturday from Big Walnut HS and my granddaughter will be a junior soon.

I am speaking to you as a long-time resident, a mother, a grandmother, a retired pediatric physical therapist and a senior.

It is an understatement when I say: I am concerned about HB 178.

As you know HB 178:

Allows anyone over 21 years of age to carry a hidden loaded gun in public. No license, training, background check or oversight required. Even persons with pending felonies of violent crimes and persons convicted of assaults, drug offences or resisting arrests and assaults on a police officer will be allowed to carry hidden loaded guns.

In Summary – A Gun Bill from Hell

What is the purpose of this bill? Who wants this bill?

Specifically, how many Ohioans plead for this bill? 500, 800, one 1,000, 10,000, 20,000? Please tell us! Anyone, I talked to, feels threatened by this bill. Aren't we opponents the vast majority of Ohioans? Our concerns are your concerns. It is your job to ensure our safety!

I heard that people need the guns to oppose a US dictatorship. They say if the German citizens only had had guns they would have been able to oppose Hitler and prevented the tragic, horrible Holocaust. But the people in Germany had no guns, they say.

I was born 1940 in Germany and like to report the evidence I know:

1. My grandfather – a civilian - legally owned several guns. I saw them with my own eyes when they were buried in a deep pit before the Allied troops invaded our area.
2. This is a piece of evidence of my grandfathers gun ownership

Jewish citizens of Germany were not allowed to have guns and many other things, and were maliciously not allowed to do many things. Many left Germany. In Nov. 1938 214,000 Jewish people lived in Germany, less than 1 % of the population.

How can any one believe they could have opposed a dictator with an army that a year later conquered Poland, The Netherlands, Belgian and France? How?

And in the US? How could all the people with their AR 15 defeat a president turned dictator here? Remember our President is also the Commander in Chief of our military, the biggest in the world, in the universe? I believe all the loaded-gun-carrying people will do no more than a pinprick to the dictator

I say, let's get real and throw HB 178 into the trash bin.

Thank you