

# Van Wert County Sheriff's Office

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To: Ohio House Federalism Committee  
Ref: HB 178

Chairman Becker, Vice Chair Stoltzfus, Ranking Member Miller, Good Morning. I am the Sheriff of Van Wert County. I have been with the Van Wert County Sheriff's Office in different capacities for over 24 years. I am here to speak about HB 178.

As the Committee may be aware, Ohio Sheriffs' have been at the forefront of supporting citizens 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights and Ohio's Concealed Carry Law. Today I would like to speak about 2 important parts of Ohio's Concealed Carry Law, training and background checks.

Training is an important component Ohio Sheriffs' receive, and provide to our employees, each year. Training is also something we feel is an important part of Ohio Concealed Carry. While many people that have obtained their Concealed Handgun License over the years have knowledge skills, and proficiency in handling their handgun, there are people who do not have those same traits, without receiving some training. While many people that have obtained their Concealed Handgun License over the years knew there were locations they could not carry concealed with their license, I believe there are many who do not know without receiving some training.

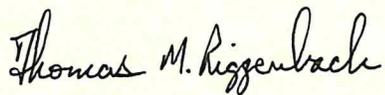
The requirement for training has been an important part of Concealed Carry in Ohio. This training has also helped people understand how to assemble, break down, store, and properly load and unload their handgun. The training has helped people understand the laws and requirements of Concealed Handgun License holders. Where they may carry their handgun, how to properly transport their handgun, and situations where they need to use their handgun. All of the training has helped citizens be better prepared to exercise their right to carry concealed.

Under the concealed carry laws, background checks occur to help ensure a person, who should not receive a Concealed Handgun License in Ohio, does not receive one. These background checks are conducted by Sheriff Offices', as part of the concealed carry application process. They are also processed through The National

Instant Criminal Background System or NICS. Ohio Law also allows Sheriff Offices' to conduct background checks for concealed handgun license applicants, at the local level with courts and law enforcement agencies. This allows Sheriff Offices' to potentially find a disqualifying conviction on an applicant that may not have been received from the court by BCI.

In closing, Ohio Sheriffs' continue to support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. We believe training and background checks have been an important part of the Concealed Handgun License process, and ask that these remain in place.

Thank you for your time today. I will do my best to answer any questions the Committee may have.



Thomas M. Riggerbach  
Sheriff, Van Wert County