

Thank you for the opportunity to testify my opposition to HB 178. I am a gun owner, competitive shooter, match director, and collector. I am a member of NRA, Ohio Gun Collectors Association, and 3 Gun Nation, I respect and support the Second Amendment. I have had hundreds of hours of training, thousands of hours of competition shooting, and have trained hundreds of children in gun safety and competitive shooting. Although employed with a nice job in higher education, I work at gun shows and shops to support my competition habit.

Let me give you an example of gun safety procedures at ranges, competitions, events, and gun shows and shops. When I go to a competition, shooters are asked to keep their concealed carry guns safely stored in their car until they leave the range. All shooters must attend the safety meeting prior to shooting no matter how many times they have heard it. New shooters to the sport or to the range must attend a special safety meeting and members are asked to mentor them.

Competition guns transported to the range and carried on the range are required to be stowed unloaded, and carried in a case, wagon, or holster until their turn at the shooter box. At each stage, there is a safety officer who gives directions to the shooter to: remove the gun from the case, load, shoot, unload, and stowed properly in its case. Any infraction of safety rules will disqualify a shooter from the competition or the shooter directed to leave the range.

At most public gun shows, concealed carry persons must unload before entering the building and keep the gun unloaded while in the show. Security guards at the door physically check each gun to be sure guns are unloaded and search carry ons, purses, backpacks, etc. FFL's, federally licensed gun dealers, must display guns unloaded and not able to fire with a flag or tie to prevent any action. The guns must be padlocked to the display case to prevent buyers from handling them.

HB178 permitless carry ignores these safety rules. HB178 is simply irresponsible. Compare the processes experienced gun owners and competitors go through to make sure everyone is safe. HB178 ignores the importance of safety training, knowing safe gun transportation methods, and even if someone can load, hit an intended target, and reload a gun. Unfortunately real life is not like the movies. In the movies, damsels in distress can pick up a gun, magically load a 16 round mag, sometimes with the correct ammo, and save the day by ridding the world of 100 bad guys. This does not happen in real life.

Despite my being a raging liberal, I love competitions and events with my fellow competitors and range buddies despite some of them being on the wrong side of politics. It is a marvelous day, It is an exciting day outside in the sun, snow or rain. Each stage is a mental and physical challenge that improves my skills. I get to talk guns all day and brag about how good I would have been except for that last stage...or two. I am safe. My buddies are safe. We are happy.

I have great respect for law enforcement and have attended one funeral of a officer who was ambushed by a drug raged kid. I do not EVER want to have to do that again. HB178 makes even routine traffic stops dangerous and life threatening for law enforcement. Before any of you vote on this bill, I ask **you** to ride with law enforcement in **your** community to learn how permitless carry will not only endanger the police force, but also citizens in **your** district: your neighbor's child, your preacher's wife, your best friend's brothers, your kid's super cool cousin,.

Law enforcement risks their lives for us every single minute they are on duty. We cannot increase the risk to our fellow citizens by a law that ignores even the most basic gun safety procedures.

The people I meet in competitions, ranges, and events take every precaution that no one will get hurt. They follow the rules. They are trained. They understand the potential for guns to harm as well provide a great sport or financial investment. They respect their guns. They respect buddies. They respect law enforcement. They respect their community members.

HB178's permitless carry is dangerous. It is irresponsible. It ignores every gun safety rule. Do the right thing. Protect and support our law enforcement. Protect your and my children and grandkids. Get rid of this necessary threat to the well being of our community.

Respectfully submitted

Grandma Betsy Mitchell
234 Washington Street
New Richmond, Ohio 45157