

May 27, 2019

The Honorable John Becker
Chairperson, Federalism Committee
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Opposition to HB178, the "Permit less Carry" bill

Dear Representative Becker and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marguerite Boeckmann. I am a retired corporate recruiter and current resident of Cincinnati. I am currently the State Liaison for the Student Demand Action Groups in Ohio. I have lived in many places over the years but have been an Ohio resident since 1992 when I relocated to Ohio to attend graduate school at the University of Cincinnati. I love Cincinnati and consider it my home. I care very much about what goes on in our state, which is why I feel compelled to submit this testimony in opposition to HB178 and its sweeping rollbacks of public safety laws. Thank you for this opportunity.

I do not want to see our laws changed in a way that forces me to share any of our public spaces, such as a grocery aisle, public parks or city streets with someone carrying a firearm who has had no safety training and no permit. To refer to this situation as "constitutional carry" is misleading. In this country we, thankfully, have many constitutional rights. With those rights comes responsibility.

It is common sense to expect that people carrying a concealed handgun in public spaces have had a minimum of instruction on its safe use, a criminal background check, and a permit to carry it. We, the rest of the citizenry, have the right to expect these reasonable limits. In the vast majority of US states, a person must have a permit to carry a loaded, concealed handgun in public. These laws ensure that core public safety standards are preserved when people carry guns in public places. That is why I joined Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. I want MY voice to be heard, and I want to make sure that the voices of 90% of Ohio voters, who have said that citizens with guns should have permits, are heard.

As legislators, you cannot mandate a sense of civic responsibility, but you can uphold the laws that require people to behave in responsible ways. Current Ohio law requiring safety training and permits for carrying concealed handguns in public does that, and many gun owners support these reasonable measures.

I am asking that you vote no on HB178. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Marguerite Boeckmann

Cincinnati, OH