

To: House Committee on Federalism

From: Steve Ritchey, Board Member, Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence

Re: HB 178, House Committee on Federalism Hearing

Date: June 5, 2019

Chair Becker and members of the Committee on Federalism: Thank you for the opportunity to share opponent testimony with you on HB 178.

We are all here because we care about our communities, and want to make sure that the public policies in Ohio do the best job possible of serving the citizens of this state *with safety and wellbeing*.

HB 178 if it became law would remove the requirement of a permit and important safety training in order to carry a concealed, loaded deadly weapon. This would be deadly for more Ohioans and costly to both the state and sheriffs' departments, throughout. *Is this wise?*

Please consider the cost of permitless first: Have you read the Legislative Budget Office report for this bill? Starting at the end of the report: "at least 7.7 million \$" in lost license revenue. This includes \$4.9 million annually to sheriff departments throughout the state. Will they be happy about that? There are court and criminal justice costs and revenue that might need more detail. The report's detail suggests an incarcerations savings of \$4.7 million, but goes on to say "any savings will likely be reallocated to" (various prison) "needs". Bottom line: that loss revenue of "at least 7.7 million \$ from HB178!

Proponents of this bill wish no process in order to carry concealed loaded deadly weapons. They are a very small percentage of the voters in our state. Some of you representatives may very well have a CCL so you have been through the process - is it so much to ask a law abiding citizen? Do you wish possible felons not yet tried and past domestic violence criminals to carry loaded deadly weapons, AND, absolutely anyone, criminal or not, from any other state? This will endanger the lives of countless good Ohioans, and certainly law enforcement as well.

This dangerous bill would include more than handguns. How about hidden assault rifles? How about deadly knives including machetes in just about any public place? Will you take responsibility for how you vote when there is a blood bath in our once fine state, when it makes national news?

Finally, just to verify, did you read our advisory board member, CWRU School of Medicine's Dr. Jane Timmons-Mitchell's testimony submitted last week?

Last month, a study published in the *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies* (Donohue, Aneja & Weber, 2019), used updated methodology to show that right-to-carry (RTC) laws *increase*, not decrease, crime. Unlike the previous estimate by Lott and Mustard, the new study used more complete state panel data (through 2014) and new statistical techniques. This approach finds that RTC laws are associated with 13–15 percent *higher* aggregate violent crime rates 10 years after adoption.

The statistics are clear in recent years: more guns do NOT make us safer. Do citizens want more cost and more crime? I urge this committee to not let *this costly and dangerous* bill: HB178 to go any further. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I will be happy to answer any questions.