

Hello. My name is Gene Moore. I taught high school science for 39 years, sold firearms for a sporting goods chain for 16 years, and have had a CCW for 15 years. I am here today as an **“UNPAID” life long RESIDENT OF OHIO** to advocate for **HB 178**.

A **72 year old senior citizen** with **NO Karate skills**, I **ALWAYS** carry a concealed handgun, even in my own house. Of course, because this **“House”** is a **GUN FREE ZONE**, today I am “exposed” to potential violence and unable to defend myself in this target rich environment. **THIS IS ILLOGICAL and bordering on insane ... but I digress....**

Comments and questions at the **May 8th** meeting revealed **some** committee members to be poorly informed about firearms and to have already formed a conclusion about HB178. Because it is scientifically impossible to reach a **VALID conclusion** based on **misinformation and bias**, I left that meeting wondering if the “expertise” of this committee was adequate for the complexity of this issue.

Therefore, today I would like to offer some **“reality”** for any open-minded members of this committee willing to let **logic supersede emotion**.

The real issue here is **NOT** public safety, individual freedom, or even Constitutional Rights, **it is RESPONSIBILITY...** the **Responsibility** of those who **sell, own, or carry** firearms!

The **“selling of firearms”** follows stringent government procedures utilizing sophisticated computer background checks to ensure that **ONLY RESPONSIBLE, LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS** can **LEGALLY** purchase a firearm; **THEREFORE**, anyone legally buying a firearm, **SHOULD** automatically be **legally able** to carry that weapon for self-defense, **should they so choose**.

This is the fundamental logic of HB178! IT DOES NOT ALLOW violent criminals or felons to legally carry a firearm, if they’ve been so adjudicated under the **Federal prohibited person’s standard**. Such individuals are prohibited, by law, from attempting to purchase or own a firearm.

In fact, when **“selling firearms”**, I was trained to detect problem or illegal purchases! If I had any reservations about a potential buyer, I would notify my manager, and the transaction would be stopped immediately. This is what a **Responsible** gun dealer does, and the vast majority of firearm retailers are **Responsible**.

Responsible people are also responsible gun owners! When, at the age of 12, Santa brought me a shotgun, my father schooled me in the **rules of gun safety**. The **“consequences”** of violating those rules were made **crystal clear...** I would lose my gun, my hunting privileges, and I would not be able to sit down **“for a month of Sundays”!** Eventually above my headboard hung a **full gun rack** with **NO gun locks**, yet, they were **NEVER** touched other than as instructed. My parents raised a **Responsible law-aiding person**.

It is the **Responsibility of “carrying a firearm,”** that is the **crux of HB178**.

This **Responsibility** has been well handled by the **legal gun-carrying public**; and, although the **anti-gun media** conveniently overlooks incidents where gun owners thwart crime, **IT HAPPENS EVERYDAY ACROSS THIS COUNTRY!**

When Ohio first sanctioned concealed carry, my son and I, took the required course and enrolled in an additional tactical course focused on real world scenarios. We accepted **Responsibility** by being properly trained to ensure our safety and the safety of others, and, despite living in a **“privileged, white, middle class suburb,”** that training has already been critical in **three potentially lethal situations!**

In fact, the surest way to become a victim is to be unarmed! This was so vividly recounted in earlier **testimonies** detailing the devastating consequences when evil enters “**unarmed**” lives.

If every **legal gun owning citizen** had the option of **Constitutional Concealed Carry**, **EVERYONE BENEFITS**, especially those in **high crime areas** who most need protection, but often cannot afford the required classes.

Some ask “Why do we need Constitutional Concealed Carry” since we already have **Constitutional Open Carry**? Simple, **OPEN CARRY** is **NOT** a **Responsible** option.

Even I was a **bit uneasy** one day, when a man, openly carrying a large revolver, entered our mall store to purchase ammunition. It was his **Constitutional Right**, but, it was **not** the “**Responsible**” thing to do. Out of respect for non-carrying citizens, **concealed carry** should be the “**standard**” for self-defense weapons. **Out of sight, out of mind!**

Each school year I told my students this story: “In the early **60’s** I lived in a small town near **Akron**, and during hunting season, I would strap my shotgun on my bike, don my hunting attire, and peddle down main street to hunt on the outskirts of town. **NOT A SINGLE PERSON EVEN TOOK NOTICE! NOT A SINGLE PERSON!!**

Students were then asked, “What would happen, **IF TODAY**, they strapped that **SAME GUN** on their bike and peddled through town?” Laughter **ALWAYS** ensued! Why? Simple, because they knew they wouldn’t get far before cops would be all over them. Then I asked, **WHY**, what had changed?? **IT’S THE SAME GUN!! THE SAME GUN!**

The answer? **SIMPLE** ... it is today’s **AUTOMATIC ASSUMPTION** of the **LACK OF RESPONSIBILITY**, an **assumption fostered by politicians** who know that only their “**expert supervision**,” through laws and regulations, can protect us. They give us, the “**deplorables**,” very little respect as we “**cling to our guns and religion**.” After all, they **KNOW** that, if we would **ONLY** give up a few more of our freedoms to “**Big Brother**,” **THEY** will keep us safe.

Unfortunately, **GOVERNMENT CANNOT LEGISLATE RESPONSIBILITY**, nor can it **KEEP US SAFE** from **EVIL** by passing “more laws”. **IF** more laws were the solution, drunk driving and drug abuse would have disappeared long ago!

LAWS CANNOT STOP EVIL PEOPLE, but, ARMED CITIZENS CAN!

During the recent **VIRGINIA BEACH** shootings, in another “**GUN FREE ZONE**,” twelve people were murdered by a disgruntled co-worker. One victim, **Kate Nixon**, was well aware of the dangers posed by this deranged man. She considered carrying her legal gun to work for self-defense, but didn’t due to the **CITY’S BAN** on employees legally carrying firearms at work! **EVIL PEOPLE DO NOT FOLLOW LAWS** and they definitely **prefer defenseless victims!**

Because “**the police arrive 15 minutes after a crime**” (and I say that having a son-in-law who is a policeman), only a “**law-abiding, gun-carrying citizen**,” like Kate Nixon, could have stopped this **evil coward!** In fact, **legally armed citizens** have the best chance to prevent many, if not most, crimes, and often **without firing a shot!**

During one **potentially lethal situation**, my young son thwarted two large thugs demanding money by using only his **confident demeanor**, made possible by the handgun he held under his jacket. Only half their size, as they stepped toward him, he looked them in the eyes and confidently told

them, **“You don’t want to push this!”** Startled by this skinny kid’s bravado, they turned and ran off! Without concealed carry, I hate to think what the outcome might have been. Of course, **15 minutes later, the police arrived!**

ONLY WE, AS RESPONSIBLE LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS, CAN PROTECT OURSELVES!

As our representatives, you must **TRUST** the **RESPONSIBILITY** of your **LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS!** We do it every day in other areas, **for example**, we trust that other drivers in the opposing lane will drive Responsibly by following the Rules of the Road. Likewise, we must trust that other **legally armed citizens** will be **Responsible** and follow the **rules of safe concealed carry**.

So the **REAL QUESTION** inherent in passing **HB 178** is, “Can **RESPONSIBLE, LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS** be trusted to **Responsibly** exercise their **CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT** to bear arms without government interference or supervision?”

YES THEY CAN! And frankly, I would rather **trust my fellow law-abiding citizens** than trust government, **BECAUSE GOVERNMENT FAILS FAR TOO OFTEN!**

During one year of the Obama administration, the **FBI** submitted over **30,000 NICS OFFENDERS** to the **Justice Department** for prosecution. These were **FELONS**, who **illegally** attempted to buy firearms, but were caught by the NICS background check.

Amazingly, Obama’s Justice Department **prosecuted to completion ONLY 13 CASES ... a MAJOR FAIL, but then NOT A SURPRISE**, after all, it was this **same administration** that illegally sold guns to Mexican drug cartels during **Fast and Furious! Another MAJOR FAIL!**

Protecting my own life is MY CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT, and MY RESPONSIBILITY, and, if I were still teaching, I would gladly carry my handgun, and, if necessary, lay down my life to protect my students against evil. It’s called **RESPONSIBILITY!** Of course, **IF SCHOOLS WERE NOT GUN FREE ZONES**, such evil **WOULD NOT OCCUR** in the first place.

HB178 is simply the **logical restoration** of our **Constitutional Rights** that will help make Responsible, Law Abiding Americans **safer from crime and even terrorism**. During WWII, the Japanese military admittedly understood, as do today’s criminals and terrorists, that you **don’t mess with an armed American citizenry**.

It is time for you, **OUR** elected representatives, regardless of personal bias, to **UPHOLD THE CONSTITUTION**, believe in the **RESPONSIBILITY OF YOUR CITIZENS**, and return the **FULL RIGHTS** of the 2nd Amendment to Ohio’s citizens to protect our families and ourselves **without government oversight or regulations**.

HB178 is YOUR OPPORTUNITY to show that you BELIEVE IN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF YOUR CITIZENS!