



OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE, INC.

Testimony in Opposition of HB 178
Chief Bruce Pijanowski, Delaware Police Department
Representing the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police

Good Morning Chairman Becker, Vice Chair Stoltzfus, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the Ohio House Federalism Committee.

My name is Bruce Pijanowski. I am the Chief of Police for the City of Delaware and I represent the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. You have previously received our testimony regarding this legislation, but I would like to follow up regarding our concerns with some of the provisions of HB 178.

As before, the OACP does not advocate infringing on Second Amendment rights. Our concern is with the removal of requirements that help to insure the legal concealed carry of firearms, removal of training requirements, and with officer safety implications of certain provisions of this legislation. Previous testimony appealed for a balanced discussion on Second Amendment rights and reasonable and legal restrictions to ensure safe ownership, public safety and officer safety. Safety has and will be an overriding theme for law enforcement. As much as we felt our testimony presented a reasonable concern, we were not surprised when it failed to slow this legislation in the least.

Much to the dismay of law enforcement, we then had to witness the exact opposite reaction when the gun lobby protested that a pamphlet regarding legal responsibilities of gun owners, "can get gun owners killed." It is interesting and sad that this body took no action based on law enforcement concerns, yet the House felt it necessary to react immediately to gun lobby emails expressing concerns with the safety ramifications OF A PAMPHLET. From our perspective, the notion that these issues are taken seriously is situational at best. Valid and reasonable concerns have been expressed by law enforcement organizations regarding this legislation only to see reasonable amendments immediately voted down. While we do not desire an antagonistic relationship with this legislative body or the gun lobby, the time has come for us to say enough is enough.

In closing, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this matter. If you are concerned with safety, then I would ask that you consider returning to your districts to speak with the officers you represent, if not on this matter, then on those in the future. Your decisions have a very real impact on their day-to-day work, and they deserve equal representation in these matters.