

February 18, 2020
RE: HB425

Chair Becker, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House Federalism committee,

I favor passage of HB 425 because I think it would be an improvement over our current laws. However, this bill should be improved even further by amending it to completely eliminate the duty to inform. This is my opinion, which I think is common sense, but I want to support my opinion by relating in paraphrase the outcome of a conversation I had with my son-in-law who is a police officer in St. Joseph Missouri. As we were discussing the consideration of this measure in Ohio these were his thoughts on the topic:

1. In all of my interactions with some member of the public, I assume there is a gun present, and conduct myself accordingly. It is the only way to be sure and stay safe.
2. The person who is willing to inform me they have a gun is no threat to me
3. The person who is a threat to me will not inform me they have a gun no matter what the law says.
4. Any officer who is trusting people to inform them that they have a gun is doing it all wrong.

Additionally, if there is an objection to this bill that the duty to notify helps prevent tragic misunderstanding should a person's concealed handgun unexpectedly become known to an officer, the exceptions granted in (C) (1) (a) and (b), for another officer or a state employee authorized to carry weapons, contradict such a concern, because the same misunderstanding could occur with those persons. Such an objection is also countered by the presence in this part of the ORC of provisions mandating that a concealed carrier while stopped by an officer may not touch, grasp, or attempt to remove from its carry place his handgun.

Thank you for taking note of my comments.

Charles Reinhardt
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