

Written Testimony regarding HB 425

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To the Honorable Committee Members:

I am a citizen, spouse, parent and Vietnam Veteran as well as a CCW license holder.

HB 425 is a bill that provides specificity that is required for the safety and protection of CCW holders as well as Law Enforcement Officers.

While I received, excellent instruction in obtaining my CCW that included very specific instruction when interacting with Law enforcement, especially when in a vehicle, "promptly," while most understand in common sense terms, needs definition that is more precise.

Any interaction with law enforcement produces anxiety on the part of the CCW holder as well as the Officer. Ensuring the armed status in the situation of a legal CCW holder and Law Enforcement would reduce the level of anxiety on both parties and produce a better outcome for all involved.

In most cases, especially vehicle stops, the officer likely knows the driver may be a CCW holder from the vehicle registration. That alone is going to raise the level of stress and anxiety and add an element of the unknown on the officer. Let us try to ensure, through the passage of this bill, that we can define responsibilities that can help reduce the autonomic responses occurring in both parties through defining specific behaviors to follow in an effort to achieve a positive outcome for all.

Ohio has consistently demonstrated its continued support of true 2nd amendment freedoms and this bill further clarifies citizen responsibility under the 2nd, as well as supporting community standards of CCW holders, and is a recognition of the everyday stress faced by Law enforcement officers, regardless of training.

I grow angry and weary of the many news articles of Law enforcement officers injured or killed in routine traffic stops by citizens (and increasingly non-citizens) who may (or not) legally be allowed to carry a firearm. Hence the anxiety of the situation that this Bill is trying to reduce to some extent by adding clarity to the responsible actions that must be taken. My experience has shown anytime both parties are armed is one of high stress and anxiety regardless of training.

This bill refines and clarifies expected behavior and provides specific, appropriate outcomes for violations that can result in a learning situation for citizens, but penalties as not to be too draconian to create animosity toward Law enforcement nor lawmakers.

I do not support any amendment to the Bill now before you to remove the duty to notify. Doing so brings into play the element of surprise...appropriate a birthday parties, not when both people may be armed.

For clarity of exercising our 2nd Amendment rights I urge you to support and ultimately pass this bill.

However, I do not support any amendment to it to remove the duty of notification.

Thank you.