

March 5, 2019

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Minority Member Craig, members of the committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 86. My name is Gary Witt, I am the legislative coordinator for Ohioans for Concealed Carry.

The committee is to be commended for taking up legislation to correct language that LSC inadvertently inserted into Amended Substitute House Bill 228 at the end of last year's legislative session, language that was never requested by any legislator.

The Legislative Services Commission (LSC) sent a letter to Senator Roegner dated January 10, 2019 stating that they cannot determine with certainty that the current language of Amended Sub HB 228, which takes effect later this month, does not affect existing firearms. All it takes is one arrest of an individual for having dangerous ordinance under the existing language of this bill and an overzealous anti gun prosecutor to cause potentially far ranging problems. The courts, as I understand it, rule on the letter of the law, not the intent of the legislature. The need for the emergency language in this bill is paramount.

The legislation before you today restores the language that Amended Substitute House Bill 228 was meant to contain and properly meets the intent of the legislature. We urge you to rapidly pass this to the Senate floor.

Thank you for your time and attention. I will attempt to answer any questions that you may have.