



RICK HINDERER KNIVES
5371 Columbus Rd
Shreve OH 44676

Date: 6/10/19

Dear Senators,

My name is Rick Hinderer, I own Hinderer Knives located in Shreve Ohio, we currently employ 16 people and are a large source of tax revenue in Ohio.

Hinderer Knives manufactures high end, high quality knives, designs based on my years of experience as a fire fighter and EMT. We sell our products all over the world and are recognized as a tough, hard use, brand that makes our knives a first choice for first responders, and military members.

We currently do not manufacture switchblade knives, because to do so would violate Ohio law see Ohio Revised Code sec 2923.20 (A) (6).

We have been approached over the years by members of law enforcement and the US Military to bid on contracts to produce switchblade knives (more accurately known as "automatic" knives) to supply to first responders and military members on the front lines. My company is currently unable to participate in these bids, which are in the millions of dollars because of Ohio's overly restrictive code. This has forced me to make a choice, either forgo this large source of revenue and jobs, or set up a manufacturing operation in a more friendly state. Currently 44 states allow the manufacture of automatic knives. We are currently considering manufacturing in Pennsylvania and Oregon. This would truly be a travesty for Ohio which touts itself as a national manufacturing center. SB 140 remedies this impediment in the code and would allow my company to manufacture automatic knives and realize revenue and create new jobs that are much needed in Ohio.

Furthermore Ohio statute considers automatic knives to be "dangerous weapons" see 2923.12 (A) (1) and to "knowingly carry or have..." "a deadly weapon other than a handgun". Even without intent to use the knife as a weapon. If my company were allowed to manufacture switchblades, the current law would place my employees in legal jeopardy for possessing them. SB 140 remedies this issue by removing knives from the "deadly weapon" definition **UNLESS** the knife was actually used as a weapon. This just makes good sense. A tool should not be considered a weapon unless it is used as one.

For these reasons I urge you to support SB140 and allow me to manufacture in Ohio the tools America's First Responders are asking for.

Sincerely,

Rick Hinderer

Owner

Rick Hinderer Knives, LLC



GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT
AND REFORM
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 6/10/19

Name: Rick Hinderer

Address: 5373 Columbus Rd. Shreve, OH 44676

Telephone: 330-317-2964

Organization Representing: Rick Hinderer Knives LLC

Testifying on Bill Number: SB 140

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: _____

Written testimony is a public record and may be posted on the Ohio Senate's website