

Thank you Mr. Chairmen, and members of the committee, for considering what I have to say.

My name is Chuck LaRosa and I live in Pataskala Ohio. I am a lifetime resident of our great state, certified by the NRA as a firearm instructor, and I am a director of Ohioans For Concealed Carry. One of the things I want to convey to you today is that repealing notification is the number one legislative priority of our membership.

The duty to notify was put into the law for one reason and one reason only, to discourage lawful citizens from obtaining their license and carrying the best means to defend themselves, a handgun. This is the final poison pill inserted into the original concealed carry legislation back in 2004 at the demand of the same people you will see testifying against this bill at your next hearing. Anti-gun law enforcement groups favored these poison pills when they became law and fought against it every time one was removed from law.

Remember? The FOP predicted blood baths in restaurants if law abiding citizens were permitted to carry the sidearm to Applebys.

Remember? The Police Chiefs Association predicted that people would be driving down the road “twirling their guns on their finger” if you removed the requirement that guns be holstered or in a case in our cars.

Remember that ridiculous “Buckeye Tuck”?

All of those bad ideas had to go and so does this one. The requirement to notify starts every encounter with law enforcement off on the wrong foot. The citizen is expected to recite this sentence to the officer in order to not go to jail. The officer is expected to arrest this person unless they go through the ritual of interrupting the officer and reciting their little sentence, no matter what the situation is or how stressed out the citizen might be. Each and every encounter starts with the premise that the citizen is going to jail UNLESS they do something to prevent it. Nice officers have even been known to encourage and coach citizens to say their line so they wouldn't have to arrest an otherwise totally compliant citizen during a stop.

Why should this be necessary? It is already against the law for anybody to lie to the officer about their carry status or any other matter; all the officer has to do is ask.

They will tell you that notification is a good idea. I agree to a certain extent. But it shouldn't be a crime to not speak up about it without being asked.

They will tell you that notification is necessary for "officer safety"
When they do, please ask them HOW. Officers are already trained to treat every stop as if the citizen is armed. Ask them if they know of any situation involving any officer who was made safer by notification. I know of no encounter ever made safer by notifying, and I have looked for such cases.

In America, we have the right to remain silent. This right is currently denied to CHL holders under the guise that it is not a Fifth Amendment matter because the CHL holder is only expected to announce he is NOT breaking the law. Isn't that confusing?

Please put an end to this façade and allow Ohio to join the other forty states that don't require their citizens to jump through such legal hoops. This legislation doesn't cost a dime of taxpayer money, unlike most bills going through the legislative process this session.

Thank you for listening to me.
If the committee has any questions I will be happy to answer them to the best of my ability.

Respectfully submitted

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