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OHIOANS FOR CONCEALED CARRY
HOUSE FEDERALISM & INTERSTATE RELATIONS COMMITTEE
TESTIMONY ON HB 201
JUNE 20, 2017

Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Leland and members of the House Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee. My name is Doug Deeken and I am a Director of Ohioans for Concealed Carry (OFCC). I wish to testify in favor of HB 201.

OFCC's stated mission is to achieve "Constitutional Carry" or as we sometimes call it "Alaska/Vermont Carry" ever since our founding in 1999.

Constitutional Carry as described by HB 201 affirms the fundamental freedoms of Ohioans. After all, we would not tolerate a mandatory licensure scheme to carry a Bible in public. Nor do we require special training to avoid a warrantless search/seizure. Yet somehow we have all fallen into a decades old trap that says that firearms are different. It is not so. Would the crown have granted George Washington a Concealed Handgun License? Furthermore, are you aware that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. applied for a handgun license in 1956 but was denied?

The thirteen (13) states that have "Constitutional Carry" are not just western states with a cowboy tradition (though I'd like it noted that there are many active "Cowboy Action Shooting" clubs in Ohio). Indeed, even neighboring West Virginia joined the list of free states last year when their governor's veto was overridden. We hope for more support from our executive branch here in Ohio during this lawmaking process. Among the "Constitutional Carry" states are even three (3) far northeastern states – Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

It is about time that Ohio embraced the freedom that our founders sought to protect with both the Federal Second Amendment and Ohio's own Constitution Article I, Section 4. HB 201 does exactly that.

Again, Chair Roegner and members of the House Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify on this important matter.