



Buckeye Firearms Association

June 20, 2017

Good afternoon Chairwomen Roegner, Vice Chairman Lipps, ranking member Leland and members of the House Committee on Federalism and Interstate Relations. I testify today in support of H.B. 228.

When Ohio finally passed a concealed carry bill in 2004, there were only four (4) states left that did not have some sort of right to carry law. Rather than follow the trend of loosening restrictions on concealed handgun license (CHL) holder's, at the insistence of Governor Taft, Ohio enacted the most restrictive and punitive law in the nation. Over the years the legislature has come back again and again to make adjustments to these problematic laws, but has not kept pace with the improvements others states have made to their laws.

This bill makes common sense changes that bring Ohio more in line with the laws of the country, and good public policy.

Every person should be viewed as innocent until proven guilty. Ohio is the only state that maintains a backward burden of proof on the crime victim, forced to defend their own life.

When Ohio eliminated the duty to retreat from one's house and vehicle, opponents claimed that it would cause people to shoot others just because they could, and that prosecutors would not be able to prosecute any home shootings. In fact, the law has worked as intended, and prosecution has been able to overcome the presumption of innocence to get a conviction where lethal force was used improperly.

It makes no sense that Ohio has different standards for self-defense in one's home and car than on the driveway in-between the two. The law should favor the crime victim, no matter where they are attacked.

Ohio has onerous restrictions and penalties for license holders in motor vehicles that no other state has. There are contradictions between O.R.C. and case law.

Ohio law requires the posting of "no guns" signs on buildings where people are carrying guns including school buildings where those in charge don't want to advertise that the kids are vulnerable.

H.B. 228 addresses each of these problems with Ohio law. It makes needed and important improvements that will benefit license holders, and society in general. Gun owners would like Ohio to lead for a change, rather than being nearly last to follow. We have endorsed this important bill and recommend its passage.

Respectfully submitted,

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