



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030-7400

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

DATE: July 5, 2017

TO: Honorable Members of the House Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee

FROM: John Hohenwarter
Ohio State Liaison

RE: House Bill 233

On behalf of the members of the National Rifle Association in the state of Ohio, I would like to express our strong support for House Bill 233, sponsored by Representative John Becker (R-65). HB 233 is a compromise between the rights of individuals to exercise their right to self-defense and private property owners to keep firearms off of their premises if they so choose. Under the bill, if a concealed handgun licensee or qualified military member is discovered carrying a concealed handgun in a place where carrying a concealed firearm is prohibited or restricted, the person is subject to removal from the property, but is not guilty of violating the firearms prohibition. If the person fails to leave upon request or returns with a concealed handgun within thirty days of the violation of the firearms prohibition, the person is guilty of disorderly conduct, classified as a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. A penalty much more fitting to the violation than current law.

House Bill 233 is legislation which finally recognizes the difference between a criminal who commits a violent crime and a concealed license holder who walks into a church or library which happens to be a government building. It goes without saying that some of Ohio's finest citizenry are concealed handgun license holders. These individuals are required to pass a background check, be photographed, fingerprinted and trained in gun safety and marksmanship proficiency. These law-abiding citizens should not be subject to the current criminal penalties because they choose to exercise their Second Amendment rights.

House Bill 233 is common sense policy making which provides much needed reform to the current concealed carry statute and I urge your support. Please feel free to contact me at 703-267-1208 if you have additional questions or concerns. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.