



Representative Larry Householder
72nd House District
Sponsor Testimony – HB 253

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Lipps, Ranking Member Leland, members of the House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 253. Under HB 253, off-duty peace officers would be allowed to carry a firearm in traditionally gun-free zones. The only thing that prevents a criminal with a gun is a trained, armed, law-abiding citizen. We trust our peace officers every single day to protect us. Why should that trust waver the moment they are off the clock? These trained professionals should be able to carry when they go to church or when they go see their kids' soccer game.

Specifically, HB 253 would allow an off-duty officer to carry in the following places: courthouses, school safety zones, sports arenas, colleges and universities, churches, and government buildings. Unfortunately, it is not difficult to recall tragedies in each of these "gun-free zones". The more trained men and women in this country protecting us, the better.

It is important to stress what this bill does not do. This bill does not allow off-duty officers to drink and carry. This bill also does not allow off-duty officers to carry in an area prohibited under federal law. HB 253 does not attempt to nullify the authority granted in the Ohio Constitution for the Supreme Court of Ohio to adopt rules for the general superintendence of the Courts. In fact, our bill allows presiding judges to prohibit the carrying of a weapon in a case where a family member of the off-duty officer is implicated.

Together, Representative Lanese and I look forward to working with each member of this committee to make Ohio a safer place to live, work and raise a family.

We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.