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**Sponsor Testimony on Senate Bill 281**

**Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee**

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Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, members of the Government Oversight & Reform Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 281.

We are privileged to live in a country that affords its citizens the liberty to possess and use firearms. However, as we all know, liberty is not license. It is our duty as citizens of this nation to exercise our liberty to do what one ought. It is even harder to maintain faith in this principle in the face of a situation where an individual uses their liberty to bring death and devastation to a community.

This legislation will grant federally licensed firearms dealers the right to refuse to sell or transfer a firearm to any person, as well as provide said dealer who asserts that right, immunity from civil liability for any injury, death, or loss that allegedly was caused by, resulted from, or was related to the refusal. **Our ultimate intention is to promote responsible gun ownership.**

The goal of this legislation is **to empower** gun dealers. The firearms dealer can physically see the gun buyer and determine whether it is appropriate for them to purchase a firearm, unlike the National Instant Criminal Background System (NICS). Allowing firearms dealers the ability to use their judgment will be a realistic and effective measure in helping prevent these weapons from falling into the hands of those who seek to do wrong to others.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.