

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 5-21-19

Name: MICHAEL HAYNES

Are you representing: Yourself _____ Organization TOLEDO POLICE PATROLMANS ASSOCIATION

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: PRESIDENT

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No _____

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): H.B. 178

Specific Issue: CCW PERMIT

Are you testifying as a: Proponent _____ Opponent Interested Party _____

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No _____

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 5-7 MINUTES

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

DECLINE H.B. 178 DUE TO SAFETY.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and to the committee for allowing me to testify today. My name is Michael Haynes and I am from the Toledo Police Patrolman's Association. I am here to testify on why myself and members of my Union oppose H.B. 178.

I would like to start out with the basic language change. The wording change from concealed handgun to concealed weapons in and of itself changes the basic principle of a "gun" law. The flaw in this word change is that the language is written on the assumption that we are only talking about guns. It is clearly shown in the fact that the law is and will stay to having to be 21 years of age to possess a firearm and firearm is really all that is referenced. However, by changing the wording to include weapons, you now open a whole new arena of weaponry is not a gun and you do not need to be 21 years old to possess. This allows for persons under 21 years of age to who are legally able to attain edged weapons the ability to carry swords, knives of any length, switchblades, throwing stars, etc. This would in essence be giving kids the ability to carry dangerous weapons as there is not a true age limit for edged weapons. This in and of itself should be enough to reconsider this bill.

I would also like to bring to the attention of the committee the repercussions associated when it comes to shock and awe. I have witnessed a once a year march through downtown Toledo where two dozen or better rifle and gun owners open carry their weapons in a show of their rights. Although there is no issue with this, you can imagine what the 911 calls look like and the expressions of motorists and pedestrians as they see what would appear to be something out of the ordinary going on. I do not foresee this being common place but I also see this as an opening in the future for a resurrection of a "wild west" type of atmosphere and even then they limited the carrying of guns in town. Although it seems that this is more to the point of open

carry, I make this statement because a weapon tucked into a waistband or that just has a coat covering it is considered concealed however any observer can clearly see that a weapon is there. Are we in fact desensitizing society?

I feel that we are in fact doing a disservice to our citizenry as a whole. This would allow John Doe on his 21st birthday to run right out and buy a gun and throw it in his pocket. An untrained person, even with the minimum training currently required for CCW holders, really has no idea what they have truly just embarked into. We don't let our 16-year-old children behind a wheel without a minimum of training involved, so why would we allow someone to carry a gun without the same due diligence? The training that is required for a CCW now is my opinion no more than showing that teenager where the ignition and gas pedal are at. It does however at least teach a little respect for the gun itself and the magnitude for when and where it should be used. Moreover, this is just another check and balance being taken away in a society where personal responsibility has gone to the wayside and is another ingredient in a recipe for disaster.

This bill will allow for people with certain misdemeanor charges to still be able to carry a weapon or gun. Some of these include misdemeanor assault, negligent assault, and misdemeanor drug charges. The simple fact that a person with a propensity for violence be allowed to carry a gun concealed is greatly concerning. That is just begging for progressive violence. The allowance of drug possessors or dealers is even more disturbing. I would like to add that many charges that start as felony charges which would normally preclude the offender from owning a gun get plead down to a lesser charge. The translation is in fact that these should be felons will indeed be able to have access to carrying a concealed weapon with no background check.

As a police officer I have made multiple traffic stops over the years of my 20-year career. I am very thankful for the current situation of a CCW holder telling me that they have a gun in the car. It truly is comforting and leads credence to how the rest of the traffic stop will go. I have never seen in my career nor heard of an officer arresting or changing the performance of their traffic stopped based solely on the fact a CCW holder was slow to mention their weapon. That type of view point that has been expressed is a fallacy and would not be of the norm. With the passage of the this bill a person could feasible have a car load of loaded AK-47's and AR-15's and the officer initiating a traffic stop would not be able to question as to what they were looking at. In a job of high stress and danger I would certainly implore the committee not to add more to my already difficult job.

In closing, I feel that there are more cons than pros to this bill. Although I am all for the rights of the citizens, the times and ways of the world have changed. Keeping in touch with this world is a difficult task. I sincerely encourage this committee to not pass H.B. 178 as it poses both known and unknow dangers to the people of Ohio.