

February 19, 2020

RE: Support House Bill 425

Good afternoon Chairman Becker, Vice Chairman Stoltzfus, ranking member Miller and members of the House Federalism Committee. My name is Jim Irvine and I testify today in support of H.B. 425.

This bill is substantially similar to H.B. 142 from the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, which passed the House with bipartisan support and a 69-25 vote.

Current law conflicts with Fifth Amendment right to remain silent. It only applies to concealed handgun license holders, not people illegally carrying firearms.

Current law has severe and unreasonable penalties for good people who have done nothing wrong.

Current law is subjective. This bill addresses the vagueness of the word “promptly” that has plagued both law enforcement and license holders throughout the history of concealed carry in Ohio. It provides a specific trigger (officer asking for ID) which creates the duty of the license holder to notify if they are carrying a loaded handgun.

H.B. 425 would align Ohio with the approximately 41 other states which do not have a “duty to notify” law-enforcement of legally carried handguns.

The only reason current law is not huge problem is because most police/prosecutors don't enforce the law as written. Good people use their discretion and don't enforce bad law. But the real solution is not to ignore bad law, it's to correct bad law. This bill accomplishes that goal.

H.B. 425 is a simple bill that corrects the above problems with Ohio's concealed carry laws. It contains significant improvements with no negative attributes. It is good public policy. I encourage its passage.

Respectfully submitted,

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