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|  image001Joe Uecker**14th District** | **Committees**Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs – ChairJCARR – Vice ChairTransportation, Commerce and Workforce - Vice ChairGovernment Oversight & Reform Agriculture & Natural Resources General Government & Agency Review Ohio Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus – Co Chair **Ohio Senate**Senate BuildingRoom 226, Second FloorColumbus, Ohio 43215(614) 466-8082Uecker@ohiosenate.gov |  |

**Sponsor Testimony**

**State Senator Joe Uecker**

**Senate Bill 140**

**Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee**

**June 11, 2019**

Thank you Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Senate Bill 140.

Senate Bill 140 eliminates existing law which bans the manufacturing of certain types of knives and other tools in Ohio. This bill also clarifies that people who work with knives everyday can legally carry them.

Currently it’s legal for an individual to own a spring loaded knife in Ohio, but it’s illegal to manufacture that same knife in Ohio. This means potential consumers have to either go online or travel to another state to purchase these items.

This outdated law is preventing Ohio businesses from reaching their full potential. Hinderer Knives is a world class manufacturer of various types of bladed tools and instruments in Ohio. Under current law, the company cannot produce various automatic knives, causing the business to turn down multi-million dollar contracts. Changing this law will allow companies, to expand their business and hire more individuals in our communities.

Senate Bill 140 also contains a provision that allows knives to be possessed and carried open or concealed. This change was requested by the American Knife and Tool Institute that represents knife manufacturers, distributors, retailers, owners and users. Many of its members use knives on a daily basis to repair electrical, plumbing, and air conditioning systems among other things. However, these members worry that they could face legal penalties for completing a job with a knife. Senate Bill 140 simply ensures that our constituents can continue to serve their customers without fear of retribution.

Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.