

December 16, 2020

Good afternoon Chairman Coley, Vice Chairman Huffman, ranking member Craig and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee. My name is Jim Irvine and I testify today in support of Sub H.B. 425.

In the four years this topic has been debated before the general assembly, there have come many witnesses both for and against the concepts put forth in this bill. While there are certainly differences there is also important common ground. No one believes notifying law-enforcement that one has a CHL and is armed should be in prison for 6 months because they did not do so quite “promptly” enough. Nor does anyone believe that notifying the several officers on scene should be fined a \$1000 for failing to notice a new officer arriving.

These are not hypothetical situations. They are cases that that were prosecuted in Ohio because of a defective law; a law that Sub H.B. 425 corrects.

99% of all police use appropriate discretion and do not charge license holders for the above infractions. That is something both those supportive and opposed to this legislation agree upon. The system works almost all the time. Nothing will change for these situations.

Sub H.B. 425 fixes the 1%. It prevents the indefensible, and creates a situation where all parties are treated fairly. Officer discretion is great, but not an appropriate excuse to maintain a defective law.

This bill addresses the vagueness of the word “promptly” that has plagued both law enforcement and license holders for over 15 years. It provides a specific trigger (officer asking for ID) which creates the duty of the license holder to notify that they are carrying a firearm.

Finally, it specifies who a license holder must notify; the inquiring officer. This is a significant improvement over the “any law enforcement officer” language in current law.

Sub H.B. 425 is a significant improvement over current law, and is good public policy. I encourage its passage.

Respectfully submitted,

James Irvine

Jim Irvine is an advocate for liberty, people’s right to bear arms and self-defense. He serves on the Board of Directors of Buckeye Firearms Foundation and Second Amendment Foundation.

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